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WELCOME

Sea Angler Issue 568 On sale March 7 – April 4

IT'S NEVER JUST ABOUT CATCHING FISH. THERE'S FAR MORE TO SEA angling. For some, landing the big one is the be all and end all, but surely it is also about being out in the environment, sharing adventures and memories with fishing pals and just enjoying the occasion.

Yes, some may consider that wallowing in the wonders of nature is a side issue to the main prize, be it catching a dream fish or the matter of winning or losing, but – bear with me here – there really are added benefits to our wellbeing.

In February I visited the European Open Beach Championships held in East Yorkshire (pictured below right) and it was obvious the event is more than just a fishing contest. It's far more – see page 16.



That's not all. For instance, some interesting information from experts at MIND, the mental health charity, proves a single exposure to nature can promote wellbeing. There's your first excuse, if you need one.

Spending time outdoors, such as when fishing, can reduce the risk of depression by 30 per cent, while such regular exercise can, for some, be a more effective treatment than taking anti-depressants. In addition, being active improves sleep quality, while reducing stress and anxiety.

On that theme, other new research has revealed that sports and exercise were at the forefront of New Year resolutions for us in Britain, with angling ninth in a top 10 list of sports listed by men.

A survey showed that 49 per cent of us had a fitness resolution on our list, from getting in shape to taking up a new sport. More than half cited that they wanted to improve their wellbeing, while 35 per cent wanted to be healthier. This was followed by 34 per cent who wanted to be fitter, 25 per cent who wanted to improve their mood and 21 per cent wanting help to relax.

Top of the list of sports for men was fitness/gym, with angling ninth out of 10, while women listed swimming as the top choice, with fishing not featuring in their top 10.

There you have it. Angling can be more than just about catching fish. It promotes good health. If you're looking for a reason (perhaps an excuse) to get out there and enjoy some sea angling, you've got a positive reason. It's good for you. If you want convincing, read the uplifting story of Ian Golds on page 12. Just what the doctor ordered. I'm sure you knew that anyway!

Finally, it is pleasing to see that Ireland will have an official large-scale catch and release scientific tagging programme for bluefin tuna from the summer (see page 34). Where will it lead? Will the UK Government follow suit and allow more tagging? Will the science be used to justify recreational fishing for them...or a commercial fishery?

Many anglers will want a recreational fishery, and the commercial interests will want a share in any potential bounty, pointing to the fact that some other European countries have a tuna quota and even fish in UK and Irish waters. Meanwhile, one conservation campaign continues to use outdated research to claim tuna are far too endangered to warrant any fishing for them, either recreational or commercial. It could get messy. *Cliff Brown, editor*

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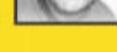
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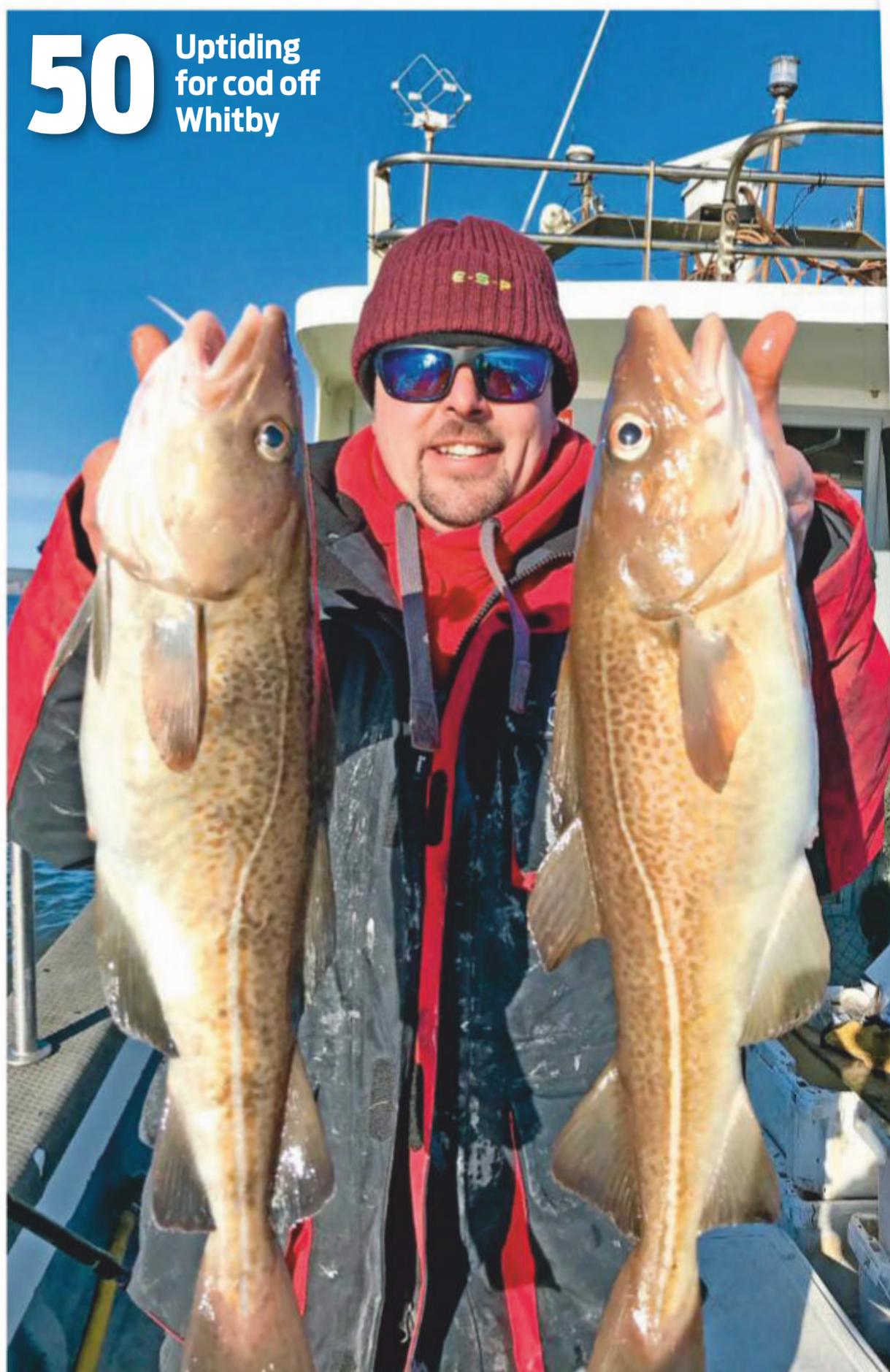
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Kane Wood-Brignall
shows how big the
plaice can grow
in Bodø

Bonding in Bodo

The shore fishing in northern Norway can be simply outstanding, as a group of dads and lads soon discovered...

THE INTERCOM CRACKLED AS the SAS Airways Boeing 737 swung swiftly on to the arrivals gate – “Welcome to Bodo”. My short two-hour hop from Heathrow to Oslo, plus a further two-hour flight up the Norwegian west coast, had been pleasant and on time, and I was glad to be back.

While scanning the revolving baggage carousel for my luggage, I glanced up at the arrivals screen and noticed that the aircraft carrying my fishing buddies for the week, had also touched down, also on schedule. No delays, no hiccups, no dramas... things seemed to be going to plan.

I heard distant laughter, and a few moments later Tony Dean and Kane Wood-Brignall, from Kent, accompanied by Tyne and Wear anglers Ryan Thompson and his lad Harley, eventually appeared.

All that was left to do now was collect our belongings, meet our guide John Strange outside, and be on our way.

There was a problem, though. Our suitcases had arrived, and so had the protective tube that contained both Tony's and Kane's beach rods. However, as we stood in the now completely deserted arrivals area, it became apparent that Ryan's rod tube wouldn't be making an appearance. Groan!

To be honest, it's actually not unheard of for this to happen. Rod tubes are long, cumbersome items, often heavy, and airlines need to store luggage in such a way that the weight is balanced correctly inside the aircraft's hold.



Sid Summerhayes bags his first halibut

On a few occasions, baggage handlers may decide to deposit these items on to another aircraft. However, they do eventually turn up – usually a few hours late or, if you're really unlucky, in a day or two.

After a brief chat and an explanation from the incredibly helpful airport staff, Ryan's rod tube would be delivered to him as soon as it arrived in Bodo. ▶

EFFICIENT SERVICE

One thing I love about joining up with the guys at Guided Fishing Norway is just how professionally and efficiently the business is run. Being collected from the airport and driven the almost hour-long journey to GFN HQ certainly takes the stress out of the trip.

But what about the fishing once you've settled in? After regular visits, I've always questioned why anyone would go to the trouble of renting a vehicle. Driving around for days, attempting to pinpoint productive venues, especially if you're visiting Bodo for the first time, must surely be a pain?

Contrary to popular belief among the many UK anglers who reckon the shore fishing in Norway equals a monster every cast, I can assure you it definitely doesn't! If you're only visiting for a week, it certainly isn't ideal to have your valuable fishing days eaten up by driving for hours, hoping to stumble across a decent mark.

I much prefer the "this is where we are going today and this is what we expect to catch" approach, usually while chatting over breakfast. No head-scratching and even less stress is certainly the way forward. Honestly, do yourself a favour and pay a little extra for a guide. You won't regret booking the services that are available to you.

This week's visit had a rather sweeter than normal twist to it. After many chats with John Strange over the months leading up to this trip, he'd told me this one would involve dads and sons fishing together. Angling's ideal for a bit of bonding. The group would consist of John's son Sid, and Dave Wood-Brignall's son Kane, on his first visit to Norway, while Ryan had decided to bring his seven-year-old lad Harley. This was going to be a proper dads and lads trip, with a few laughs thrown in.

Our visit coincided with the first large plaice appearing in the fjords, and the start of the



Our guide John Strange with a cod



early halibut run. Those of you familiar with Norway will know halibut sizes often vary from modest eight-pounders up to colossal specimens going well over 100lb. The plaice can be huge, too.

"There's a really good chance of a 9lb plaice today," said John. Silence fell across the breakfast table as his words took a moment to sink in. "There should be some halibut along with the first cod arriving in the fjord too," he added.

"Hang on," I replied, a little confused. "Did you just say there may be plaice to 9lb?" Pushing aside his empty breakfast plate, he

gave every one of us a brief stare as a large smile creased his face.

FANTASTIC VIEW

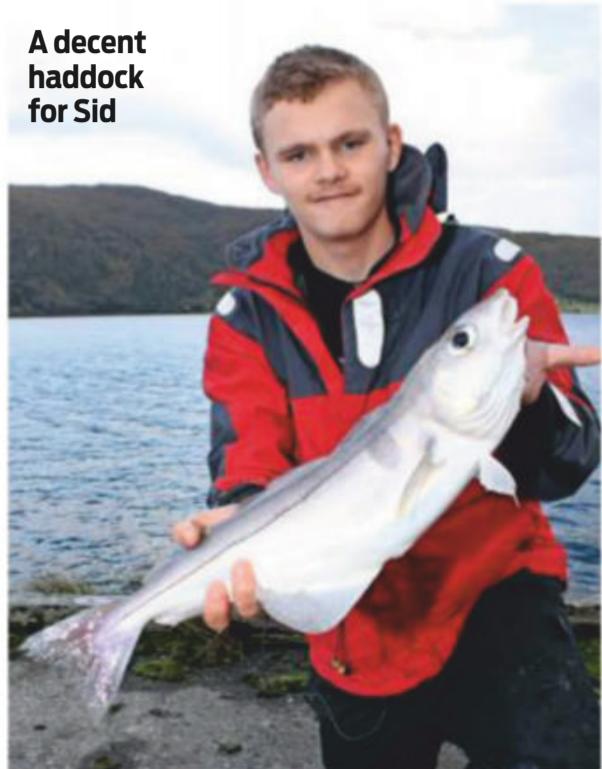
Arriving at the mark, we were greeted by a fantastic view of the fjord. Actually, we could have been setting up on the shore of Windermere, in the Lake District. The reflections of the surrounding mountains and the autumn colours bouncing off the flat calm water were incredible.

John briefed us on tactics for the day, while suggesting we spaced ourselves along the shore, simply to cover more ground.



Ryan and Harley are delighted with this halibut

A decent haddock for Sid



Ryan caught a haddock too



Harley caught the first cod



I'd be joining Tony, Dave and Kane, while John and Sid chose a vantage point 150 yards to our left. Meanwhile, seven-year-old Harley had already found the perfect spot and, while purposely pointing further to the left, quickly advised his dad Ryan: "That looks like an ideal area to catch a halibut."

An hour into the session and we had caught loads of good-sized dabs. It didn't matter where our baits landed, the hungry dabs jumped on them, with some of them weighing well over 1lb 8oz.

Suddenly, Harley was offering words of encouragement to his dad as Ryan bent into a

running fish. "I told you this was a good place to catch a halibut," the lad yelled.

The halibut broke the surface in an absolute frenzy as it thrashed the water to a foam. I don't know who had the bigger grin, Harley or Ryan, as a super fish well into double figures was beached and subsequently celebrated with a jubilant "get in there" from a fist-pumping Harley.

The sound of a screaming ratchet saw Sid this time jumping into action, as his mainline disappeared quickly from the reel. As the fish slowed, his dad John asked him to ease into the fish, which resulted it taking off again ▶

Sid playing a better fish in the calm water

at pace. With a nice bit of angling skill, Sid beached the second halibut of the day, and of a similar size to Ryan's fish.

The excitement seemed to have settled down briefly when, 20 minutes later, Ryan found himself playing his second halibut.

Sid and Tony were also playing halibut, while Harley was over the moon to have hooked his first bite. Sadly, Sid's fish spat the hook, Tony landed his maiden halibut, followed by Harley landing the first cod of the day. The fjord had well and truly come to life.

HUGE PLAICE

There was no time for a break as we all shoved Norwegian chocolate into our mouths and opened flasks of hot tea and coffee.

Kane's rod tip tapped, showing signs of interest before lunging over, resulting in a huge amount of slack line. Moments later and he was into something that appeared to be decent.

As his mainline neared the edge, we all watched inquisitively, wondering what it was that was staying deep. The first sign of his shockleader in the crystal-clear water signalled the fish was close. Then we all saw it, a huge plaice – the biggest any of us had ever seen before – now motionless on the surface.

Dave Wood-Brignall quickly slipped the net under the huge flattie, only to see it flap furiously and throw the hook out. If he'd been a few seconds later with the net, we'd have all been having quite a different conversation.

"Well done, son, that's a magnificent plaice," said Dave to a rather stunned Kane, who simply couldn't take his eyes off the fish. To be honest, it was an incredible specimen.

Speculative weights of the fish were shouted out among us as Dave slipped it on to the scales. "Bang on 7lb," he announced. Not the nine-pounder John had predicted, but not too far away. What a fish!

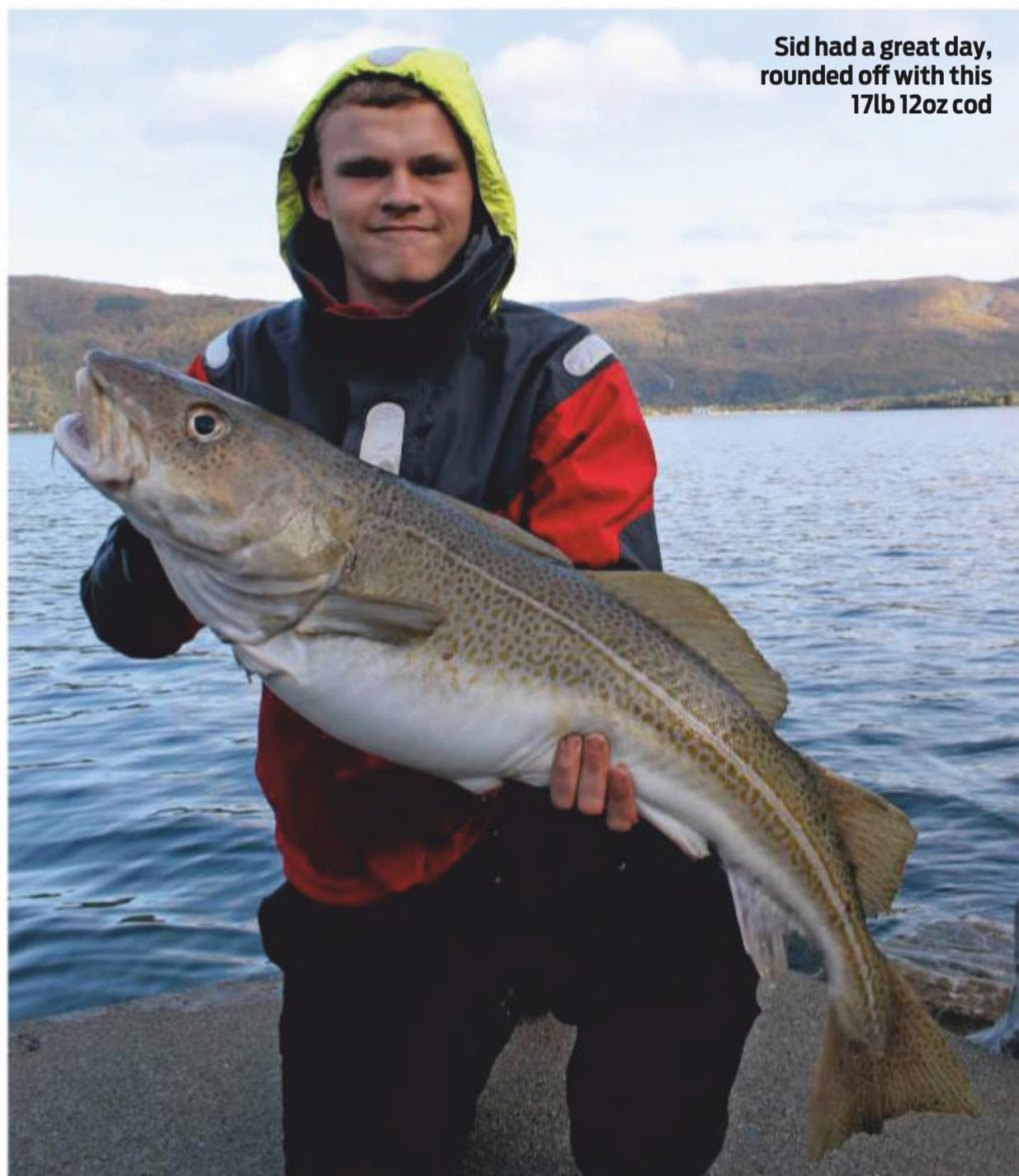
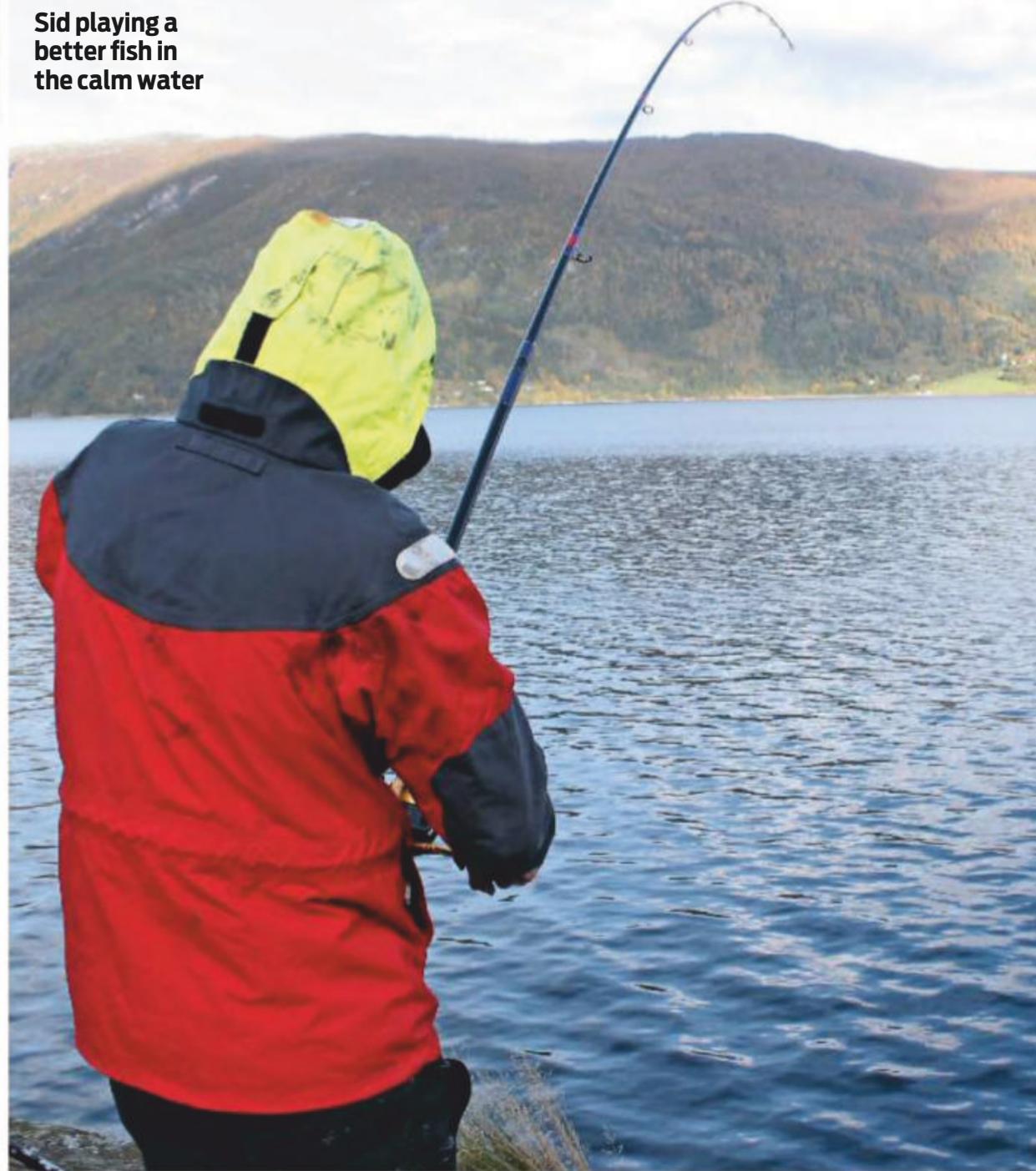
Time was ticking on as the sky started to fill with heavy clouds. The forecast rain wasn't far away, and we had perhaps another hour of fishing remaining.

Still the bites came, with Ryan and Sid both bagging a decent haddock each, and Tony ticking another off his bucket list with a fantastic 18lb cod. Sid managed one more cast and connected with another superb cod, pushing the scales to 17lb 12oz. Our opening day had been an absolute success.

At that point, the rain came and our thoughts turned to the lamb stew bubbling in the slow cooker back at HQ, with perhaps a celebratory beer (and soft drinks) too. ■

GET A GUIDE!

■ For more info on bookings, prices, tackle hire and anything else, simply visit the website at: www.guidedfishingnorway.co.uk, or email: info@guidedfishingnorway.co.uk tel: 07967 550715. You can also find them on Facebook – just search Guided Fishing Norway.



Sid had a great day, rounded off with this 17lb 12oz cod



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MY FINGERS WERE SOON NUMB as I de-iced the car windscreen in the early hours of a January morning, but it hardly mattered in the circumstances. A little discomfort was a mere inconvenience. For my emotions and adrenalin were flowing freely because I was heading out to pick up old England teammate Ian Golds.

Not much more than six months prior to our adventure, Ian, a highly respected former stalwart of the England shore team (most recently as manager) and also famous for his superb range of rod-rest tripods, had received some devastating news.

Ian, perhaps Portsmouth's finest ever angler, was diagnosed with an incurable illness, which sent shockwaves through the sea angling world.

Typical of Goldsie, though – but unlike the vast majority of folk, including myself, who would have hidden in the shadows after receiving such earth-shattering news – in true bulldog spirit, he met the challenge head on, willing the chemo treatment to blast those nasty cells into smithereens. Call it what you will, but the results have been pretty remarkable. He has already confounded many of the experts and, hopefully, will be around for many more years.

Anyone who knows Ian will acknowledge his remarkable sense of humour. Some of his antics are the stuff of legend. Add a kindred spirit like my mate Steve Lawrence, from Poole, into the mix, and the trip had all the makings of being something special. When it comes to banter and mickey-taking, I had two of the country's best in my car. To say the journey to Pevensey Bay, midway between Eastbourne and Bexhill, in East Sussex, was entertaining was an understatement. I laughed so much, my sides ached all day.

PLAN OF ACTION

Time just flew by, and, soon 'Laurel and Hardy' and their trusty driver (that's me) were in the café at Pevensey Bay, near Eastbourne, tucking into breakfast before heading to the Anglers Den tackle shop in North Road, Pevensey, to collect our order of wrapped blacks; fantastic quality as usual.

We had decided to fish towards the eastern end of the bay, up towards Alice's Pipe, in the hope of flounders, dabs, maybe even an early plaice, along with the usual whiting. ▶

Laugh a



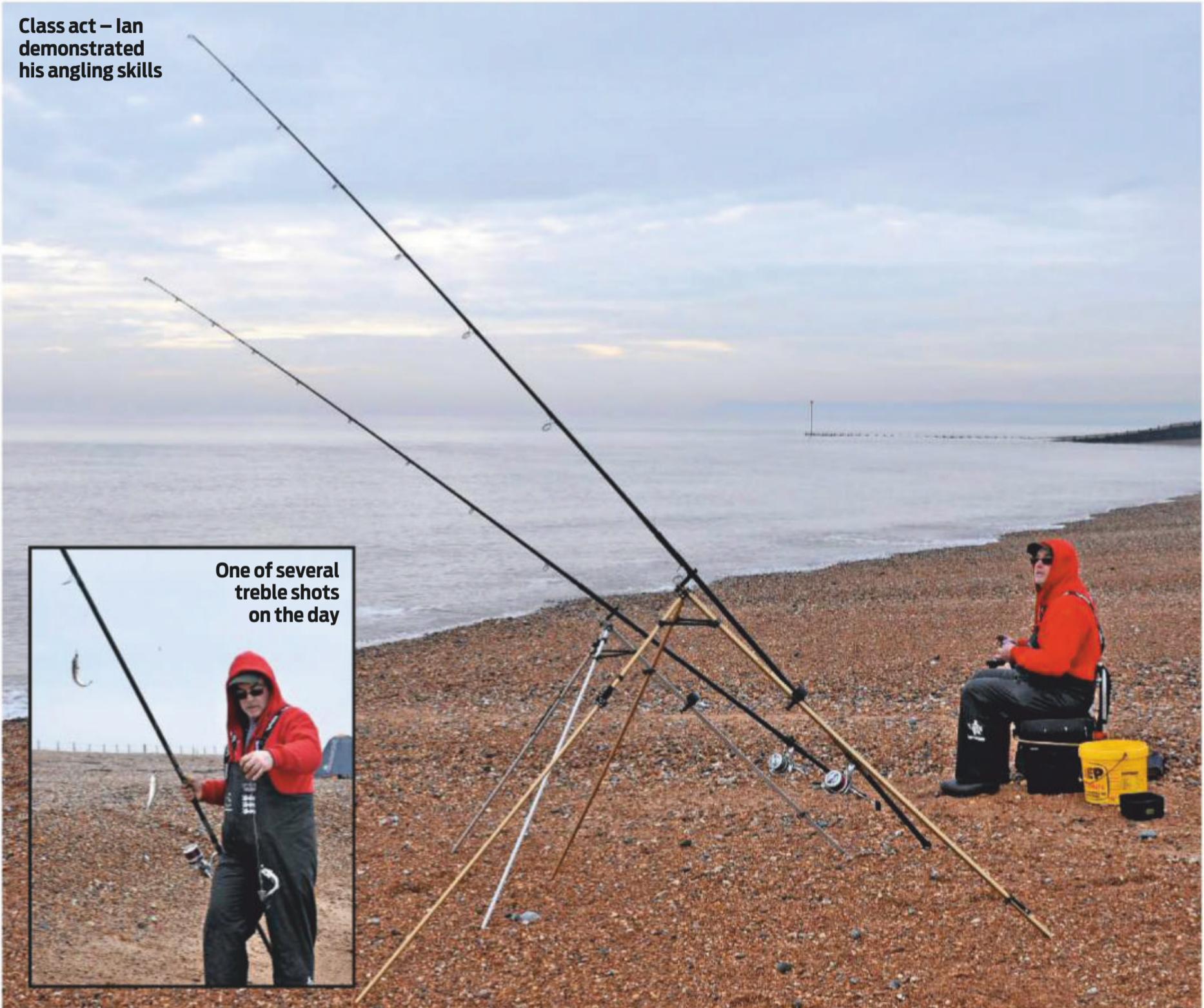
minute

A trip to Pevensey Bay with Ian Golds, one of the nation's finest ever anglers and well-known master of the art of banter, had all the makings of a great day out...even more so when he's part of a double act



Double act – Steve and Ian kept the laughter flowing

Class act – Ian demonstrated his angling skills



rockling and occasional pouting. Once parked, we were soon scrambling over the shingle to survey the scene in front of us, all eager to get a bait in the water.

For those who have not fished this venue before, I recommend that you arrive at low water and check out the seabed. The shelving shingle beach gives way to sand around 40 yards out with a couple of hundred yards exposed on big springs. There are plenty of small gullies, sandbars and pools, which are ideal holding areas for fish as the tide starts to flood.

Our plan was to fish three-hook clipped rigs armed with size 4 hooks baited with half a wrapped black lug fished at maximum range. Grip weights would be required, especially two hours either side of high water, when there would be a good left-to-right tidal pull. This is the period favoured by many locals, although a few fish can be caught throughout a tidal sequence.

Our second rods would fish just at the bottom of the shingle where it meets the sand. Being a prime area for flounders, our baits would be a small piece of gutted blow lug or black lug tipped off with either king

rag, white rag or maddies presented on size 4 Kamasan B940M hooks.

For such fishing at close range for flatties, it's best to use a fairly light lead weight to create some extra movement that often attracts inquisitive flatfish.

READY TO FISH

As we arrived at our chosen spot, the sea was calm but held plenty of colour, which was good, but the venue normally explodes into action if there is a moderate sea running with a south-west wind. The temperature was still minus 2°C...

Ollie: You'd better take my temperature... get that thermometer.

Stan: The what?

Ollie: Thermometer! You'll find it on the shelf. Ollie: What does it say? Stan: Wet and windy.



With a few other anglers already on the beach, we decided to head 400 yards east past the pipe. Some cheery waves and shouted

greetings were directed at Ian as we made our way to our destination. Even with the hood of his bright red hoodie pulled over his head, he was recognised. It didn't need his Team England Vass chest waders to mark him out as someone special.

The banter from 'Stan and Ollie' had continued almost non-stop, and combined with the ground still being frozen, it was an enjoyable and fairly easy walk. A few minutes later we were ready for the off.

It was three hours before high water, and we expected a few fish from the start, but in flat, calm cold conditions it could be tough. Not that such things fazed Ian.

Baits, mainly comprising black lug tipped off with king rag or maddies, were soon launched seawards. We did have a few small white rag, but these often attract the smaller, bait-robbing whiting. Initially, the rods remained motionless, but after 10 minutes or so we saw a few twitches on the tips indicating that those micro-whiting were stripping the baits.

Sure enough, our first cast produced several small whiting and, for me, a 23cm dab that somehow managed to beat the whiting to one of my close-range baits.

Chris and Ian found the dabs and flounders



With the tide rapidly pushing up the shingle, the bites dramatically increased. As you would expect, Ian was on fire. Such a class act never loses his angling skills. He landed a continuous stream of treble shots of whiting, with a few better fish thrown into the mix.

Strangely, the flatties were giving him a wide berth. As you'd expect, he joked about it. If only you could bottle his enthusiasm and share it with others. Things must have got serious though, because the hood on his hoodie was thrown off. He'll never lose that competitive edge. I expect the real reason was the air temperature had increased enough to dispense with the warming hood.

FANTASTIC SESSION

In complete contrast, Steve had beached a trio of flounders, while I had taken seven sizeable dabs. Yes, we were also catching plenty of whiting and a few rockling, but not the stamp of whiting that Ian was landing. All very strange because we were using the same baits and fishing roughly the same distance. That was soon about to change.

As the ebb set in with the tide pulling from

left to right, Ian beached decent flounders in consecutive casts, along with his first dab. It was really great seeing him on the beach enjoying himself. Meanwhile, I was rapidly adding to my dab collection.

For the next two hours it was fairly hectic stuff, with treble shots of fish on nearly every cast. The catch mainly comprised whiting, although my dab count was into double figures, but the continuous action, the cold earlier in the day and the trudge along the shingle, was starting to take its toll on my old bones. It would soon be time to limp off the beach. There was no stopping Ian though.

We had decided that it would be lines up at 4pm before hitting the road for home, but Ian proved, as he had done on numerous occasions while wearing his England shirt, that it is never over until the fat lady sings.

With just 30 minutes remaining, he beached a double shot of really nice flounders, by far the best of the day, while at the same time Steve matched him, even if his brace was a tad smaller. What a fantastic way to end the session.

The elusive plaice failed to appear, although some showed here during the Tony's Tackle

Excalibur Charters Big One match. It was still very early in the season, but by the middle of March there should be plenty of red spots around, especially towards the Langney Point and White Horses sections. To be honest, some can be caught throughout Pevensey Bay, so it's well worth a visit.

We arrived at the car and stowed our gear. I eased my aching bones into the driving seat...



Ollie: Call me a cab.

Stan: You're a cab.

Our homeward journey was just as entertaining, with plenty of bickering about who had caught most. On the whiting count, Ian had won hands down. Steve had caught five flounders to Ian's four, while I had taken 11 dabs but no flounders. This fishing malarkey is a funny old game.

In the words of that great slapstick comedy duo – "Well, here's another nice mess you've gotten me into." ■



Party central

There's more to the Paul Roggeman European Open Beach Championship than just a fishing match...

ASTRONG TIDE FLOWS AT THE European Open Beach Championship, and it's not just from the murky water of the North Sea. It's a wave of emotion that seems to seep into every pore of its very existence.

When East Yorkshire council employee Paul Roggeman founded the event in 1994,

as the British Open Beach Championship, his aim was to bring some much-needed out-of-season trade to the local coastline.

Paul passed away in 2015, and his showpiece, now boasting a £35,000 prize fund, was named after him from 2016, but his legacy is something extremely powerful.

It attracts more than 1,400 anglers, who descend on the Holderness Coast to fish the main weekend event, while several



hundred take part in the Friday warm-up, called the Flattie Bash.

It has become something of a party atmosphere where anglers renew old acquaintances and make new friends. Yes, it's a fact, some alcohol is consumed. It's not hard to notice the smiles of the staff at the Sand le Mere holiday village at Tunstall, which acts as the headquarters and is the main accommodation for many of the competitors. Surely, an out-of-season boost to the local economy doesn't come much better than this? It's a captive audience.

Throw in some barnstorming razzmatazz at the evening presentations and the 'Euro' has all the trappings of fun-filled mild mayhem. You see this sort of thing at boxing matches or company presentation events, but where else in angling do you get rock anthems blasting out as prize winners

head for the stage to collect their winnings?

The pounding of numerous foot-tappers from the likes of AC/DC and Guns N' Roses, along with what have become presentation anthems, such as "We are the Champions" by Queen, and the 'Rocky Theme', really get the crowd going. The roster of songs boom out from the stage and across the crowded function room, but I'd suggest the choice was missing "Cigarettes & Alcohol" by Oasis to really set the tone. Fags optional, of course. Perhaps "24-hour Party People" by the Happy Mondays would be even more appropriate. A badge of honour – "I survived the European Open" – should be available alongside those cheeky MILF (Man I Like Fishing) t-shirts.

The headquarters benefits from those who like to stay up late – some even go out at 3am to bag a spot at their chosen venue. ►



Andrew
Stronach's ray
weighed 3.569kg



SOCIAL GATHERING

While the big match has been dominated by local anglers since 2010, it doesn't deter groups from various parts of the country meeting up to join the piscatorial party. These included nearly 40 from the Coast to Coast Livestream Facebook group, who, said its administrator Richard 'Minty' Smith, use the match as a social gathering. Kevin Warner agreed: "It's a great weekend away and so friendly."

Win or lose, they keep coming back. It's that kind of event. Stephen Hutchinson, of Sunderland, who was fishing the big match for a fifteenth time, added: "Anglers from all over the country renew acquaintances; it's a really great time."

Tom Worthy, who lives in Devon, described it as "my little holiday, and a chance to see all the lads". He was with his pals John Partridge, of Bradford, and Brian Roach, of Plymouth, who had all fished the event for a dozen or more years. While the fishing was serious enough, with the chance

to win big money and prizes, they were treating it as a social event too.



A 1.520kg cod was George Smith's Sunday best



Somerset angler Paul Cox with a 2.400kg cod

Rich Lunn with a cod of 2.010kg

Anglers also come from the rest of Europe. Among them was Ayelt de Wit, from Amsterdam, who was fishing the match for the first time and had made some firm friends among a group of local anglers. A keen angler, he'd visited the area before on a cycling holiday, heard about the match and decided he'd come back to fish. Taking the ferry from Holland to Hull, he had his bait delivered by mail order from Hooker's Baits to his accommodation. Anglers really put themselves out to compete here.

MAIN EVENT

Seemingly in the middle of nowhere across miles of farmland and small villages east of the urban sprawl of Hull, anglers make their way to Sand le Mere, where its caravans and lodges form a patchwork over the clifftop fields. They appear to sparkle in bright sunshine; yes, this year the sun was out.

The headquarters for the Euro is Sand le Mere's leisure complex, a mix of swimming pool, reception, bars and dining area, with a large main function room and stage. It's ideal for an angling event of this type. With displays from Akios, Anyfish Anywhere, Asso, Bassboots, Grauvell, Inova and Vass, there was plenty to keep the crowds involved, while a superb social media presence of live video and interviews, along with loads of photographs, was created by

Sea Angler contributor

Andy Webb

and his Sea Angling Adventures crew.

Next to the holiday village is Tunstall beach, which consists of sand and shingle, with concrete blocks acting as sea defences against the ongoing assault of the sea against the crumbling mud cliffs. Naturally, it's always a busy beach during the event, but others will drive off anywhere in the match area between Bridlington and Spurn in a bid to catch match-winning fish.

While there is a £2,000 prize for the captor of the biggest fish each day, the main prize is an aggregate of an angler's best fish from each day, and it offers a juicy £4,000. There are other cash prizes, and the stage is laden with tackle prizes and trophies.

The main event kicked off at 9am on the Saturday (February 16) with fishing until 3pm, and a 5.1m high tide at 1.49pm. The following day had the same fishing times, with the 5.5m high water at 2.48pm. Each day the weigh-in takes place between 3pm and 4pm. The efficient process enables the results to be ready in quick time.

WINNING WAYS

After two days of angling, the overall event winner was announced as Martin 'Marty' Booth, a plumber from Hartlepool, who scooped the £4,000 top prize. His two-day aggregate consisted of a 2.385kg cod on Saturday (fifth that day) and a 3.520kg ray on Sunday to finish with 5.905kg.

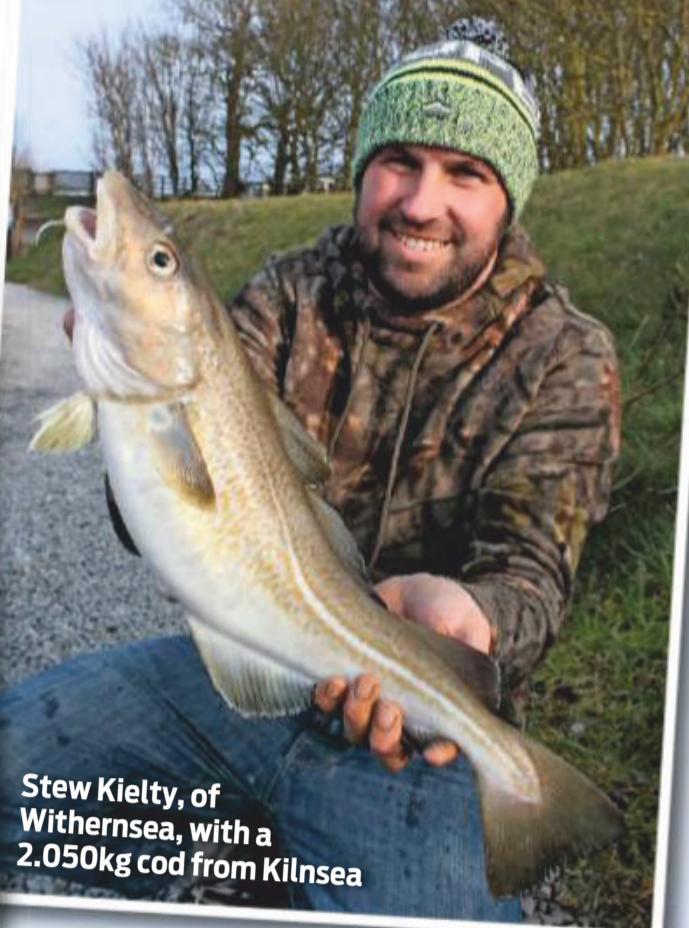
Fishing the event for the fourth time, he had finished third on the Saturday in the 2018 event, scooping an Anyfish Anywhere Match Pro rod that he used to win this time. He matched that with a Penn 525 Mag reel and fished an up-and-over rig carrying squid that he cast out as far as possible.

He caught his fish in the Fraisthorpe area





Gary Pye's best Day 2 cod weighed 1.455kg



Stew Kielty, of Withernsea, with a 2.050kg cod from Kilnsea

about midday, but moved south towards Mappleton as high water approached.

Runner-up was Chris Fisher, of Aldbrough, with 4.585kg (1.700kg on Saturday and 2.885kg on Sunday), who fished at his local beach.

Third went to Richard Southgate, from Bridlington, with a 4.285kg cod caught at Waxholme on Day 1, which was Saturday's best fish and earned him a £2,000 payout.

"I had good selection of baits but wasn't catching any cod, only undersized whiting from the off. I switched to two hermit crabs, a bait I would use from the rocks, and cast it out on a pulley-dropper rig with size 4/0 hooks," said the air conditioning engineer. After five minutes, his Zziplex Trinity GT rod signalled the all-important bite from the cod. He didn't weigh in on Day 2, having fished at Cowden.

His pal Steve Cooper, of Bridlington, finished fourth overall with 4.200kg. The self-employed joiner was second on Saturday with a 3.770kg cod.

"I fished at Easington lagoons on Saturday and caught whiting all day, but saw someone catch two codling from an area of flat sand. I moved 100 yards towards him, cast out and had a bite within five minutes," said Steve, who landed a

3.770kg cod on two yellowtail lugworms on a Pennell pulley rig consisting of 80lb rig body and 50lb hooklength with a size 3/0 and 5/0 hooks. He added a 0.430kg whiting on Sunday while fishing at Easington.

Sunderland angler Aaran Stead was fifth with 4.055kg, consisting of a 2.165kg cod from Out Newton (Saturday) and 1.890kg cod at Aldbrough (Sunday).

Day 2 winner Glen Wilson finished sixth overall thanks to a 3.855kg cod. The fence erector, from Hull, blanked on the first day, but caught his Sunday fish three hours before high water at Ringborough farm. He fished yellowtail lug on a long Pennell pulley with size 3/0 hooks.

Ian Reynolds, of Long Riston, was next with 3.635kg, followed by Andrew Stronach, of Rillington, with a ray of 3.569kg at Mappleton, and England international George Smith, who fished at Hilston on both days, with 3.305kg.

While anglers from the north-east coast dominated, in tenth overall was Paul Cox, who had travelled from Kingston Seymour, Somerset. He had a 0.615kg fish on Day 1 and 2.400kg cod from Holmpton on Day 2 for 3.015kg. The last time an angler from outside Yorkshire won was in 2009 when top spot went to David Richardson, of ▶



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MATCH FISHING

EVENT OF THE MONTH

Lowestoft, Suffolk. Eleventh went to Rich Lunn, of Hornsea, with a 0.985kg cod and 2.010kg cod, the latter from Cowden. Third on the first day and twelfth overall was Tony Burman, of Cleethorpes, who fished at Easington on both days. He caught a 2.870kg cod on Saturday, but on Sunday connected with only undersize whiting and rockling.

With the presentations over, the comrades in arms who were staying one more night were left to carry on the revelry in the bar.

For the Sea Angler staff, it was time to take the minor roads back to Hull, before hitting the motorways to Peterborough. As we pulled out of Sand le Mere, my colleague Paul Fenech turned on the radio and we were treated to another rendition of "Highway to Hell". The AC/DC song was written about life on the road. How fitting. Will you be on the highway to Hull next year?



Winner Marty Booth with his Day 1 cod



Marty receives his £4,000 overall first prize



The efficient weigh-in means a quick result



Anglers on the cliff tops at Tunstall



The winner caught a cod and ray on Day 2



Andy Webb ready to film the prize ceremony



Junior winner Josh Wilson, from Hedon



This 4.285kg cod for Richard Southgate was the best on Day 1

MATCH FACTS

■ This is the largest sea angling festival in the UK, and biggest three-day beach fishing competition in Europe.

■ The event's association with the Sand le Mere Holiday Village at Tunstall began in 2013. The park hosts approximately 1,000 anglers. Originally, the HQ was at Bridlington.

■ The first 500 two-day ticket holders received a goody bag, filled with freebies from, among others, Fladen, Sea Angler and Yuki.

■ Junior winner overall was Josh Wilson, of Hedon, with 0.860kg. Best flatfish prize went to Brad Morris, of Redcar, with a 0.545kg flounder, caught at Aldbrough. Top lady was Cheryl Robinson, of Nafferton, with 0.445kg. Overseas winner was Tomas Noerring, from Germany, with 1.880kg.

■ Pairs winners were Steve I'Anson and Martin Wilding, and the top team consisted of Jordan Hunter, Paul Westmorland and Aaran Stead, from County Durham.

■ The Flattie Bash is a warm-up match, but not part of the European Open Beach Championship result. Organised by Penn Sea League 2018 winner George Smith, it is a catch and release match fished at Hornsea and Mappleton. It attracted 282 anglers, with the winner, Steve Ingleston, catching 24 dabs and flounders for 496 points. Rob Bond (18 fish, 391pts) and Ged Stevens (18 fish, 378pts) were second and third.

■ For Penn points, see page 113.

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ANGLING ADVENTURES

WITH ANDY WEBB



“Line peeled off the reel and all that he could do was hold on and enjoy the ride...”





O

NE OF THE LATEST MEMBERS of my Sea Angling Adventures team is Dan Bassett, who I know through Seaview Angling tackle shop, in Plymouth, and for his passion for sea fishing.

Having started his fishing obsession at the age of four, he was fortunate to be surrounded by some superb anglers around the South West – not least his dad, Bill. Over the years Dan has gathered a vast amount of knowledge of the area's marks.

His main passion is mullet fishing and he's had some fantastic results, including a 6lb 2oz thick-lipped and a 4lb 1oz thin-lipped. He's also caught plaice to 4lb from the shingle beaches. In recent years he has sought a 40lb conger eel from the shore and, with a current personal best of 32lb 11oz, he is often out at night around the Plymouth area in search of a monster eel.

What he really wanted was a large shark from the shore. Having caught blue sharks to 120lb from local charter boats, he dreamed of a rock session when a shark would strip line from his reel.

SHARE THE ACTION

A conversation among members of the Sea Angling Adventures' team gave him the chance to achieve this objective, when James Davis Cooke (known as JDC) invited Dan and Richard Albones to North Wales for a spot of tope fishing from the rocks.

For the previous 12 months, JDC had put in countless hours in search of tope and, with a little help from fellow SAA species hunter Ross Johnson, he managed to find some hard-fighting tope action. It resulted in seven fish from 18lb to a personal best of 32lb 10oz.

Dan and Rich were eager to share the action, so a date was set and soon they were on their way to North Wales from their homes in Devon.

The intended venue was very open, meaning the weather would have to be kind. Any swells would make it hard to

land a big fish in bad weather conditions, and the autumn weather seemed to be changing every day. The other potential problem was that mackerel were becoming scarce, and the three anglers might not get enough fresh bait. As insurance, a call to Hookers Baits resulted in some blast-frozen mackerel arriving the day before the trip.

JDC had been preparing pulley rigs for the session. He makes these using 100lb Rovex 10X for the rig body, a strong size 1 swivel, two 8mm black beads, 90lb AFW trace wire and a Varivas BMX size 8/0 below a size 6/0 circle with its barb crushed. All this is held together with a Gemini Splashdown clip to ensure the heavy bait doesn't come apart from the lead weight when being cast into the tide.

The tackle used by JDC consists of a pair of Zziplex M427 Hi-flex rods with a pair of Daiwa SL30SH reels loaded with 25lb Varivas Yellow Sport mainline and tied off with a Bimini twist to a shockleader of 100lb Rovex 10X, which is particularly tough when it is contact with ledges and underwater reefs.

Arriving on the Friday night and with the wind from the north, it required a rethink on locations ready for an early start next day. The alarms went off at 5.30am and soon the lads, accompanied by JDC's springer spaniel Jenny, were on the road. Two hours later they arrived at a car park, unloaded the fishing gear and headed off for a 30-minute walk to the mark. It involved a lot of hiking up and down rocks, but eventually they arrived at the mark.

PERFECT TIDE

The wind was gusting strongly off their backs, but they were protected by some larger outcrops of rock and, thankfully, the dreaded swell was non-existent.

The tide was perfect, around 29ft, which was producing plenty of current needed for the fish. Fresh baits continued to go out for the next couple of hours, with not a sniff of a tope. With low water approaching, the guys sat like coiled springs by their rod tips, while JDC had a few casts with his spinning gear and caught a small pollack.

About an hour or so later, Richard's rod pulled over and soon a fish broke the water's surface...unfortunately it was a dogfish and not a tope. JDC headed off with the spinning rod once more, but soon noticed that the baitfish were jumping out of the water in panic. Soon he spotted two black shapes, possibly pollack or bass, chasing his lure. The fish kept up the chase.

When he started jigging his 40g Nomura ▶



metal lure right under his feet to provoke a response, it wasn't long before the Nomura 130 Popping Special rod lunched over and a fish stripped line of his spool. To his surprise, it was a wrasse just over the 1lb mark.

NODDING ROD

With the tide now on the flood, Dan and Rich hoped it wouldn't be long before one of the reels would signal a bite.

After a few more bites from dogfish, the glass tip on Dan's Century Eliminator T900 rod started nodding, before suddenly being pulled down twice and the 'Slosh' reel started to click. The clicking got quicker and quicker.

Dan grabbed the rod and held it at 90 degrees to the fish and then tightened the drag...ever so slowly. The tip pulled around harder and harder before he lifted the rod sharply and set the circle hook in the fish's mouth. Line peeled off the reel, and all that

he could do was hold on and enjoy the ride.

The fish would not give up easily and started to strip off even more line from the reel. Dan eventually turned the fish, but there was still the small problem of landing it. Now was the time for JDC to spring into action. He jumped down a crack in the rocks and got to the water's edge to wait for the shockleader to show. Finally, a dark shape started to appear through the gin-clear water about 10 yards out. There it was, a beautiful large tope.

JDC ran his hand down the leader to the rig. The fish started thrashing, so he let it do its thing for a moment before he turned it and pulled the shark towards him. JDC grabbed a pectoral fin as soon as it came close and got the fish out of the water.

Gripping the fish in a bear hug to stop it thrashing and potentially falling back into the water, JDC staggered back up the crack in the rocks to where Dan and Rich waited, both in a state of excitement and shock.

He passed the fish up to Dan, grabbed the T-bar disgorger and removed the circle hook with little effort. With his certified scales zeroed to account for the weigh sling now placed on Rich's tripod, the scales settled at 39lb 1oz. It was the signal for Dan to dance with joy as he celebrated the completion of his mission.

After a few quick photographs, the fish was returned and swam off into the deep water. The pressure was, at last, off for JDC because it's always nerve-racking inviting other anglers to your coastline when the outcome cannot be guaranteed.

Baits were soon in the water again in the hope that Rich would catch a tope to complete his session. However, after a few more hours of fruitless waiting for the reel to scream, the session came to an end.

On the long walk back to the van, they all agreed that they would return. Yes, sometimes dreams do come true. ■

James Davis Cooke (JDC) with a wrasse



It's a dog's life







Rays of hope

A social session on Chesil Beach produces a personal best

MY FISHING IN DECEMBER and January is normally reserved for seeking bass and flounders. Having bagged up on cod in August and September, it hadn't really crossed my mind to head to Dorset's Chesil Beach. That said, it was hard to ignore the reports of rays along the eastern end of Chesil. I had endured several fruitless bass hunts on The Solent and, more recently, a couple of

poor flounder sessions at Poole Harbour, so the thought of hooking and playing a monster at one of my most reliable marks was more appealing than ever.

Three of us decided early in the week, with tides and conditions looking favourable, that we'd give in to the temptation and head for 'The Big Beach'. The week at work dragged, as they normally do prior to a fishing trip, but eventually Friday was upon us. We set off from our homes near Southampton at the earliest opportunity and arrived at

Ferrybridge, in Dorset, just in time to witness an incredible winter sunset.

Having discussed our targets prior to the trip, Keith Harris, with one eye on his species count, opted to keep a ray bait at range all night and a three-hook flapper at medium range in an attempt to catch some smaller species. I was going all out for rays, which meant a combination of squid, mackerel and sandeel baits, mounted on long up-and-over rigs at maximum range.

Meanwhile, Stew Herd, who arrived slightly



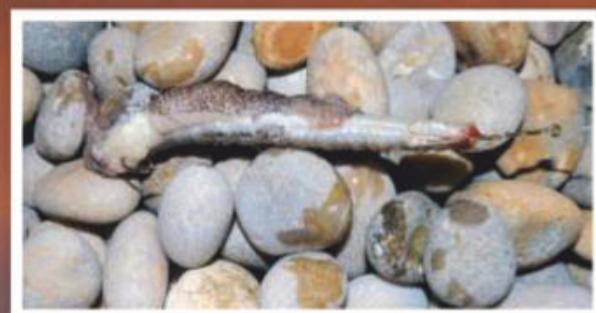
later in the evening, didn't need to tell us what species he would be targeting. Originally from the North East and used to hauling rough ground cod for fun, he had one thing on his mind. Within minutes of arriving, he proceeded to launch big black lugworm baits out to the horizon.

NIGHT ACTION

As soon as darkness set in, we all registered bites, in particular Keith, who was being kept occupied with a steady stream of pouting, poor cod and strap congers. Fishing is quite often a social event, but we were all glued to our rods, leaving little time for conversation.

A few hours passed and Keith, fed up with catching rig-destroying straps, and with high tide soon approaching, decided to replace his three-hook rig with a running leger and big squid bait. This was dropped into the gutter for a bass and finally gave him an opportunity to pop over for a chat.

However, the chat would have to wait as, all of a sudden, my rod tip took a nose dive. I waited for a moment to see if the it would



To tempt the rays we used a combination of squid, mackerel and sandeel baits

bounce back in the rest, as often is the case, but it didn't. The fish showed no sign of stopping. I grabbed the rod and struck. Instantly, I felt a decent weight on the end, so I shouted over to Stew to assist with landing the fish.

He was at the water's edge before I had a chance to retrieve much more than 10 yards of line. I took my time playing the fish, as we directed our head torches on the water in anticipation. Eventually we caught a glimpse of the fish – the distinctive patterns of an undulate ray soon breached the surface in

front of us. I managed to beach the fish with the assistance of a small wave and stood at the top of the bank as Stew struggled with the ray.

Even from a distance, it was evident that the fish was going to smash my long-standing personal best. The large female undulate was placed in a sling and weighed before being released, with the scales settling on 16lb 13oz.

It was now high tide, and the fact I couldn't hear anything other than the calming sound of the waves and occasional rig hitting the water told me my companions were concentrating. The silence was broken when Stew shouted for some assistance. Returning the favour, I ran to the water's edge and waited for the fish to surface.

Initially, I thought he had caught a bass, as I could see his line darting from left to right, but it turned out to be his target for the evening, a codling, which weighed 3lb 12oz.

This marked the end of the session, as the tide soon started ebbing, and even the mini species stopped biting. We made our way back to the car park grinning from ear to ear as Chesil had produced the goods once again. ■





Far from making fishing harder, boat activity can stimulate fish to feed

Action stations

In cold water, the savvy LRF angler should target deeper water where pollack and cod will be lurking

THE COLDEST WATER TEMPERATURES of the year can have a dramatic effect on the species of fish to be found and their behaviour. While shallower water has lost much of the weed that is so prevalent in summer, winter storms have changed the way the marks fish compared to at other times of the year.

Throughout this period, my fishing is concentrated on finding sheltered water away from the effects of winter storms. Alternatively, I'll seek out deep-water venues where temperature changes are much more gradual. Finding marks that combine these two elements, such as harbours, docks and – here in Scotland – sea lochs, offers me the best chance of finding fish and keeping catching through the winter.

My main big-fish species are pollack and cod, but I catch others such as flounders, dabs and coalfish. There are also mini species in the form of blennies, gobies and the occasional short-spined scorpionfish from the deeper marks. However, the mini species are much fewer in numbers than in summer.

My main focus has been on enjoying the winter run of codling around the Firth of Forth. However, when you can target and catch them on LRF gear, their prowess as a sportfish becomes really apparent. Built like tanks with a powerful, bullish fighting style when hooked, they like to stay deep and do all they can to stay there. Even the small ones punch above their weight when hooked on LRF gear and, if you are lucky enough to get one over a couple of pounds, the fight on such light tackle can be exciting and very addictive.

FISH ANY TIME

One of the joys of fishing deep-water marks is that they hold fish throughout the tide cycle, which means that I can go fishing at any time rather than waiting to fish a specific tide state.

The time of day and varying light conditions seem to have a big impact on how aggressively the fish feed. Even in really deep water, light can have a big impact, especially when lure fishing. In fact, on some of my most visited urban marks there has been a real pattern of aggressive feeding at first light for an hour or so, as well as at the end of the day. There will be a steady stream of bites throughout the day, but usually many more around these times. This happens through various tidal states, and the trigger seems to be light.

I am lucky enough to be able to fish some harbours where the water is so clear you can see a small piece of Isome being worked at 25ft deep. Given the choice, this would be my ideal water clarity – however, with the right tactics you can keep catching in even the most coloured of conditions. ▶



Lured by a small piece of Isome

In the deep-water docks that I have been fishing recently there have been numerous instances of big container vessels navigating their way through the docks while I have been fishing. These ships are huge vessels, and push a lot of water about when they are coming through the docks. This turns the water from clear to chocolate brown. The crazy thing is, far from making it harder for lure fishing, this activity can stimulate the fish to start feeding.

RIGS AND TACTICS

My rigs and tactics for cod have altered from my normal summer methods. In the summer I use metal jigs fished fairly aggressively across the top of kelp beds. However, throughout the winter my retrieves are low and slow, with the metal jigs taking a back seat until the water temperature starts to climb. Slowly and subtly twitching a drop shot rig back is the most successful tactic by far.

The other twist to the standard dropshot rig is incorporating a couple of luminous beads into the set-up. This really seems to act as an extra trigger, especially in the deep-water marks (soft-plus). I did a few experiments with beads, without them, and with a mini starlight. Over different sessions the beaded drop shot rig outfished the non-beaded one.

Tying the rig is simple. First, I slide two 5mm lumo beads on my leader and then attach my hook with a Palomar knot, although you can use any dropshot knot. Take the tag end (where you attach the weight) and thread it back through the beads. It has all the advantages of a rig tied direct to the mainline, but also pushes the hook out from the main body of the line like a short snood.

The only consideration with the bead size is whether the eye of the hook can get inside the bead. Ideally, you want the bead to butt against the eye of the hook without sliding on to the hook, which can ruin the presentation and make it harder to hook fish.

The other soft lure rig I have been using is a floating Carolina rig. In essence, this works the opposite way to my dropshot choice.

After casting out and letting it sink to the bottom, I lift the rod tip and give the reel handle a couple of quick turns. This lifts the Carolina weight and pulls the soft lure down. When I pause the retrieve, the weight stays on the bottom and the popped-up lure gently wafts up from the seabed. It's an interesting rig, and good when fish are a couple of feet from the bottom.

Tying the rig is very straightforward. Slide a bullet weight on to your leader, add a bead and tie on a swivel. Next, attach your hooklength



(2ft or more) and slide on a couple of pop-up beads (enough to float your chosen lure). I like the luminous ones for my deep-water marks. Finally, tie on your hook and rig your chosen lure.

FEATURES MEAN FISH

This old adage about finding the features to locate the fish is correct when it comes to searching for these winter codling, especially in the silty, deep-water dock marks.

Here, my tactic when dropshotting is to cast out as far as I can and allow the rig to sink to the bottom. With my lure set a foot from the lead weight, I begin a gentle twitched retrieve with pauses. Making sure I keep the lead weight hard on the bottom means I can feel the soft resistance of the silt. I'm waiting to feel a hard tap as the lead weight hits underwater structure. Whether it's a branch or boulders, a feature in an otherwise flat and featureless seabed is where most of the bites happen.

As soon as I feel a bit of structure, I concentrate on working the lure around this area. The dropshot rig is ideal for this because you can gently work the lure against the lead weight without having to move out of the possible strike zone.

Using these techniques, I try to cover as much

water as possible by casting in a fan pattern before moving along the mark to explore new ground. Such sessions produce codling to 1lb, and the fishing has been very rewarding. The occasional bigger cod does happen along, though, and recently I hooked a proper one on the LRF rod and the fight was great.

One of the benefits of fishing deep-water docks or harbours is the fact that once hooked, the fish has very little structure to run into, which means I can let the drag from the reel soak up the fish's runs.

LRF rods can cope well with these bigger fish, and you should have no fear about playing a beastie.

The one thing these rods can't do is lift a fish up a wall. For this you will need a dropnet or a long-handled landing net, which is essential when the chance of a big cod is quite high. Without the net you will never be able to land them safely.

It has been an amazing start to the year, with this beaded dropshot rig really working well for the codling.

Despite the cold and the high winds, these deep-water harbour and dock marks have made my winter LRF not only bearable, but also exciting sessions that just leave me wanting more. I hope you can find similar sport on your local marks. ■



The Gambia International Annual Boat Fishing Competition 2019

11th November

Welcome ceremony at

The Green Mamba Garden Restaurant

12th November - 15th November

4 Days of Fishing Competition

16th November

Competition Award and Gala Dinner Ceremony

The River Gambia is one of the most attractive and richest fishing spots in the African sub region. It obtains its source from the Futa Jallon highlands in Guinea and opens up to the vast Atlantic Ocean thus providing a unique combination of flora and fauna.

The fishing spots are accurately selected with a valuable knowledge of the fish and fishing grounds offering the angler the rare opportunity to catch the "Big One". Fishing methods would take the form of live baiting, dead baiting, drifting, trolling, etc. The anglers would be provided with live or dead baits or artificial ones depending on their choice of fish predator.

The prized fish would include both fast moving fish and demand fish. They include the famous Barracuda, The Golden Snapper, The Flamboyant Cassava Fish, Captain, Tarpon (also referred to as Silver Queens), and Sting Ray just to name a few.



Participation

Entry fee:

- £150 per day (Covers Transportation, Bait, Water, Boat and Awards Gala Dinner).
- Up to £7000 worth of prizes to be awarded on various prize categories.

Competition is on full insurance cover with support from Gambia Maritime Administration, The Gambia Fire and Rescue Services, Gambia Navy and Department of Fisheries.

Closing date for entry into the competition is 31st October, 2019.

Fish the Gambia are pleased to support the Gambia Tourism Board and their Partners with the event of the Gambia International Boat Fishing Competition.

Fishing Methods:

- Bottom Fishing (different bait)
- Spinning
- Jigging
- Trolling

For complete set of rules and registration email:
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YOUR FISHING

10 pages of your catches, news and angling insights

IT'S OFFICIAL – IRELAND GETS TUNA TAGGING

...and, as UK sightings of bluefins rise threefold, campaigners seek a fair deal

IRELAND HAS OBTAINED PERMISSION FOR a large-scale catch, tag and release research scheme for bluefin tuna from this summer.

For several years a number of charter skippers off County Donegal, on Ireland's north-west coast, have been catching and releasing huge numbers of giant Atlantic bluefins. The capture of most of those fish, between 2016 and 2018, has been through official tagging programmes.

Without any part of the EU's 16,000 tonne quota, Ireland was unable to authorise a recreational fishery, even catch and release. Indeed, in August 2018, the EU announced that it was launching an audit into various aspects of Irish fisheries management, including an accusation that Ireland 'was permitting the operation of an illegal recreational fishery for Atlantic bluefin tuna'.

As recently as November, Irish Fisheries Minister Michael Creed said Ireland had no chance of persuading the EU to grant Ireland any form of quota. Campaigners were therefore taken completely by surprise on February 5 when the Irish Minister announced that the EU/ICCAT had agreed to endorse a tag and release bluefin research programme from this summer, to be operated by up to 15 recreational vessels in Irish waters.

This is not the establishment of a formal, ongoing recreational fishery for Ireland, but a derogation as required to operate a tagging programme. This is contrary to the charge of some anti-angling groups that these programmes are just a cover for angling.

Ireland now joins Denmark, Sweden and Norway in involving anglers in these programmes. The last Danish programme in 2018 utilised 30 vessels to tag 91 fish over 10 days.

UK INCREASE

Meanwhile, in UK waters, sightings of Atlantic bluefin tuna were up approximately threefold in the autumn of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017.

ThunnusUK has been collecting reports of sightings, and at its heart is a programme to attach Pop-up Satellite Tags (PSAT) to a



number of bluefins over two years, in order to record aspects of their behaviour.

Combined with annual CEFAS surveys undertaken each autumn, and from the Marine Discovery operation at Penzance, the findings were consistent with the anecdotal evidence from charter skippers and other operators over the last few years. Numbers of Atlantic Bluefin in the South West and Celtic Deep appear to have increased markedly over the last two years.

The earliest fish reported was in May in the Western Approaches, and the latest on December 16.

Tagging took place over 25 days at sea last autumn, in the waters off Falmouth, Cornwall, and the team applied 10 PSATs to

bluefins ranging from approximately 150lb to 325lb. Interestingly, that average size was notably smaller than that of fish tagged in Scandinavian programmes of 2017 and 2018, and the Donegal scheme of 2016.

During 2019, the team plans to tag another 20 fish, and it is likely that the tender process for those wishing to participate will open in a few months.

The campaign to achieve a recreational live release fishery for UK bluefin, was put to Fisheries Minister George Eustice on January 30 by Bluefin Tuna UK and the Angling Trust. The talks were described as very positive, covering a number of topics relating to recreational sea angling and the presence of Atlantic bluefins in UK waters.

SPAIN REIGN IN AFRICA

Winning on all four days saw Spain leave the other 17 teams in the shadows as they stormed to victory in the 36th World Shore Angling Championships.



At the World Games in South Africa, it was Ireland who got closest, with silver from 15 day points, featuring second, seventh, fourth and second. England were sixth, Wales 10th and Scotland 14th out of 18 teams.

Best-placed individual was Ireland's Willie Weir in eighth.

In the 27th World Ladies Shore Angling Champs, Spain also won the team event. There was a fourth-place finish for England,

with Ireland in ninth out of 12 teams. The best-placed individual was England's Kimberley Lawn in seventh.

In the 2nd World Shore Angling Pairs, there was an individual pairs bronze medal for Stuart Withyman and Sea Angler contributor James Madsen, while England's three pairs (Madsen/Withyman, Dene Conway/Russell Taylor and Tom Bagnall/Toby Oldfield) were fourth overall out of nine countries taking part. Germany won the gold medal.

England had one of the 10 teams taking part in the 3rd World Shore Masters and finished eighth, with best-placed individual being Keith Mills in fifth. Team winners were Italy.

CHUNKY BALLAN

This superb ballan wrasse, weighing 8lb 8oz, was caught by Patrick Tarrant. The angler from Richmond, Surrey, boated it on a 200g slow jig while fishing over a mid-channel wreck. Patrick was fishing on Kelley's Hero 3, skippered by Ian Dale and Bex Florence, out of Northney Marina, Hayling Island, Hants.



BUMPER TURBOT

Brian Billion from Guernsey, Channel Islands, caught two turbot, the best a superb 16lb 1oz, during a charter trip on Richard Seager's Out the Blue. Both fish fell to a strip of garfish and launce cocktail on a flowing trace. It was a personal best flatfish for the retired roofer.



HOT FOR WRECK POLLACK

A charter party on Matt Forrester's Silver Halo, out of Torquay, found plenty of pollack on the wrecks.

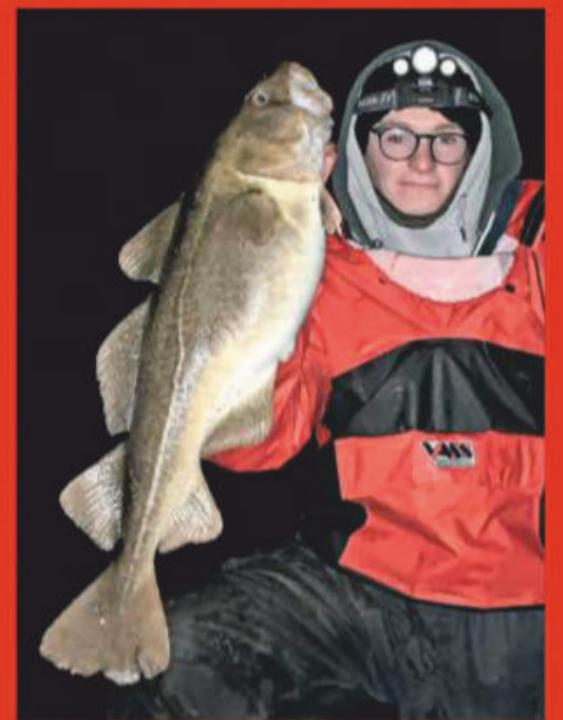
Fishing with mainly Sidewinder lures, Mike Wallis (right), of Cirencester, caught a 16lb 8oz fish, while David Foyle (below), of Exeter, had a best of 14lb 8oz. Also getting among the fish was John Sherlock, from Newton Abbot. Mike and David also caught pollack of 10lb 10oz and 7lb 14oz on the same drift.

Mike added a 2lb 4oz cuckoo wrasse, too,

on a weedless minnow, and David also caught a cod.

Skipper Matt (below) was fishing a wreck 90 minutes out of Torquay, but only 20 miles from Salcombe.

On a previous trip he caught a 14lb 4oz pollack on a Nami Cobra 220g lure.



Winning combo

■ A yellowtail lug and Bluey combination on a Pennell pulley rig with size 3/0 hooks produced a 6lb 8oz cod for Stewart Herd, of Newcastle upon Tyne, while fishing at Hartlepool.



■ Marc Wright caught two common skate, weighing 190lb and 121lb during a charter trip out of Lochgilphead, Argyll. The angler, from Woodford Bridge, caught them on February 2 while fishing aboard Paul Timoney's Seadog Charters, out of Ardfearn. He fished two mackerel on a size 12/0 hook and with pieces of mackerel threaded up the line.



■ Bass record holder John Locker, of Truro, Cornwall, fished a local mark and caught a 10lb 11oz thornback ray on fresh mackerel.

TIME MACHINE

Looking back through 40 years of Britain's biggest and best sea angling magazine...

MARCH

2009

■ While fishing off South Wales on a private boat, Philip Cocker, of Monmouthshire, caught a 25lb 4oz cod. The angler, from Shirenewton, was fishing off Penarth when the fish took his squid and ragworm cocktail bait.

■ Dave Rice, from Sussex, got among the English Channel's big cod when he caught a 22-pounder. Dave, who used a squid and worm bait, was fishing on Paul Dyer's Brighton Diver.

■ Anglers who tried to fish illegally in Sunderland Port were being warned they could face hefty fines for trespassing on the South Docks estate. It followed a series of incidents where anglers had been caught flouting port rules and fishing out-of-bounds areas. The ban was for health and safety and security reasons.

■ Rob Hockley, of Freshwater, Isle of Wight, caught a 14lb 8oz bass on a cuttlefish and squid bait while boat fishing out of the local port of Yarmouth.

■ A 25lb 2oz 3dr pollack was caught out of Dartmouth, Devon, by Dave Parkes. The boat angler, from South Brent, Devon, caught it on a Sidewinder lure.



■ Tony Fitch, of Selmeton. He caught it on a lug on a size 1 hook.

■ Tim Sheath won Isle of Wight-based Bembridge SAC's cod competition with three fish for 40lb 9oz. The angler, from Ryde, Isle of Wight, was fishing off The Nab aboard Phil Mason's Wave Dancer.

■ Oxfordshire rod Bob Rose caught an 18lb 6oz undulate ray during a charter trip out of Weymouth, Dorset. The fish took a small live pouting on a size 6/0 hook at a reef just off Portland.

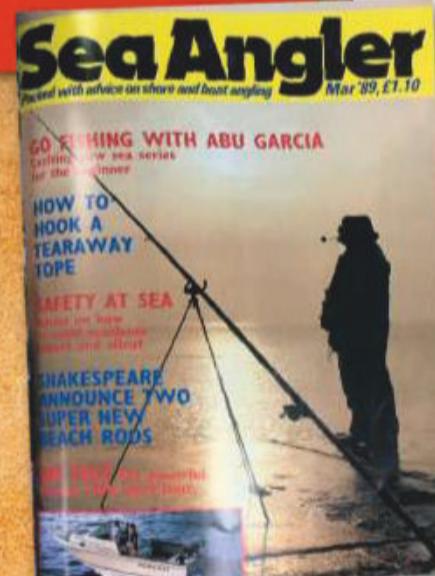
1989

■ An amazing 46lb 3oz cod was boated off the Cumbrian coast by an angler fishing with a handline. John Macaulay, of Whitehaven, was fishing on his own boat just offshore when he hooked the fish on black lug. It took him 30 minutes to get it on the boat. His previous best cod had been 17lb.

■ There had been a run of big winter cod for shore and boat anglers, with the best on rod and line being a 41-pounder caught by Christopher Deaney, of Oxford, while fishing on Roger Bayzand's Sundance II, out of Lymington, Hants.

■ A fantastic catch of shore-caught cod was taken by Sea Angler casting instructor Eric Cocksedge while fishing at Aldeburgh, Suffolk. The angler, from Stowmarket, caught 10 fish, including five over 13lb, two of which were 26lb 8oz and 24lb.

■ A 16-year-old angler took the best shore-caught cod of the season with a 33lb 5oz fish from Dungeness Point, Kent. Ross Morgan, of Watlington, Oxon, used a squid and lug bait to catch the fish, which was 44 inches long.



■ Ken Robinson from Whitley Bay, Northumberland, who had made headlines in 1978 with a 40lb cod from Balgray Point, Scotland, was on the big fish trail again. He caught a 29lb 8oz fish from nearby Colvend.

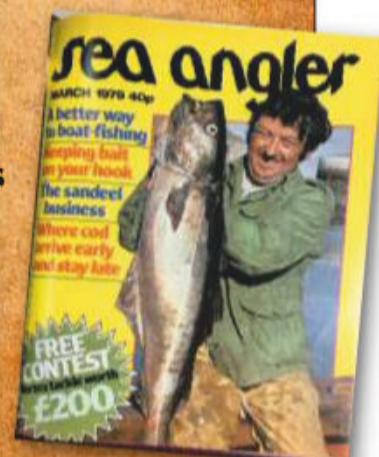
1979

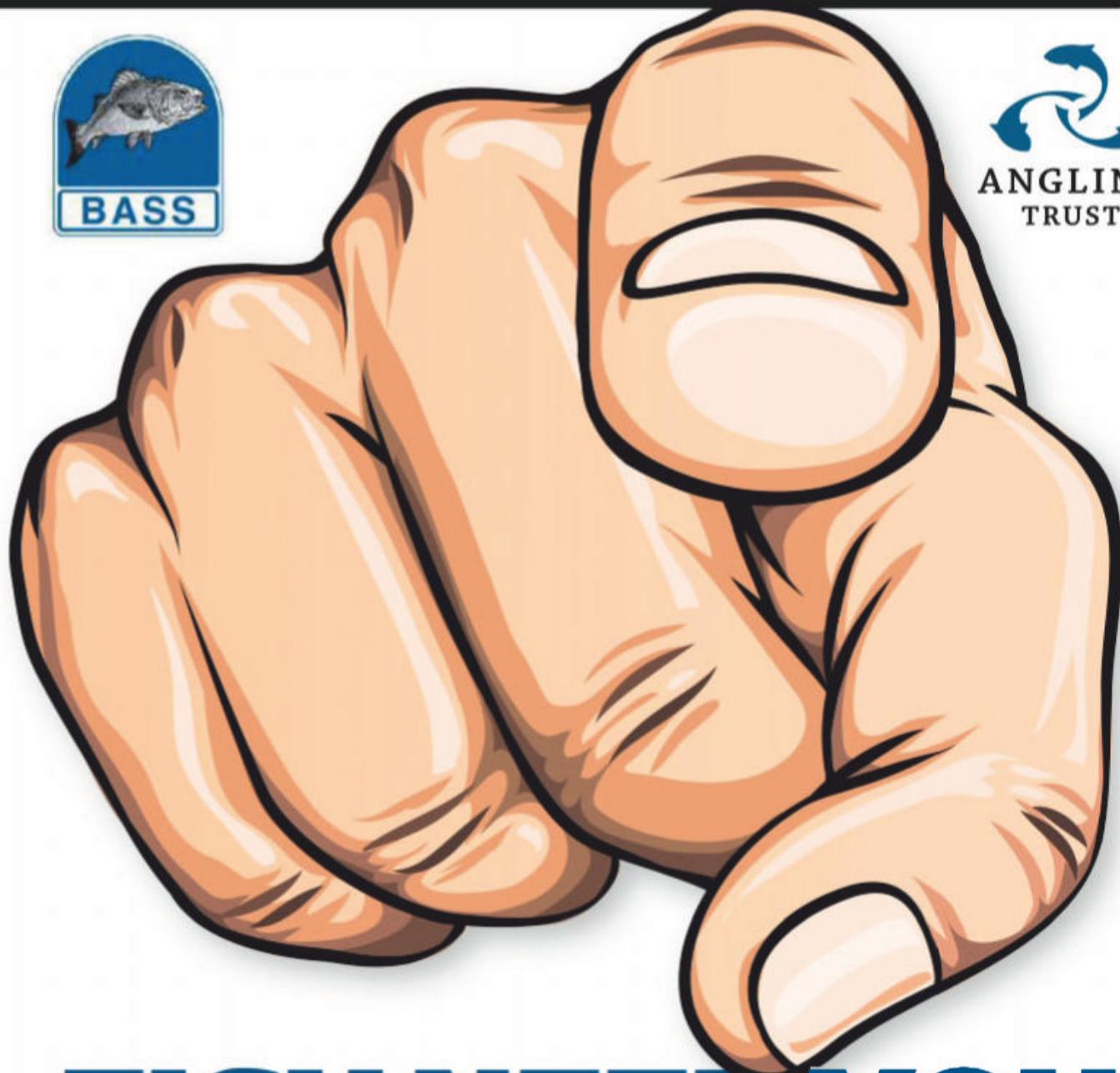
■ The Irish Specimen Fish Committee's annual report stated that in the previous 21 years a total of 276 bass weighing 10lb or more had been registered with the organisation. Six topped 14lb, nine more were better than 13lb and 33 bettered 12lb. In 1978 there had been 18 bass over 10lb recorded, with the best being 12lb 12oz 8dr from Churchtown, County Wexford. It concluded that these figures must be disappointing even though the bass fishing effort was probably a smaller percentage than before.

■ The Plymouth-based charter boat, Artilleryman, was up for sale. Owner Geordie Dickson intended to replace her with an extra-fast 38-footer in order to extend his fishing range to roam the area between Weymouth, Guernsey and the Isles of Scilly.

■ Fish of the month winner was Peter Wessain, of Basingstoke, Hants, who caught a 39lb 12oz cod. He was fishing in Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight, aboard Mel Brydon's Albatross IV, out of Yarmouth. Shore winner was Mike Challis, of Poole, Dorset, with a 29lb 13oz fish from Southbourne.

■ Remember this? Radio Basildon, in Essex, had an angling programme on Fridays and the presenter was Bradwell charter skipper Arthur Weitzel. The show was repeated on Saturdays and Sundays.



Words by
JONATHAN
BURTON

FISH NEED YOU

Don't sit on the fence and criticise – join BASS, a local club, or the Angling Trust and fight for a better angling experience

THE LITTLE RIVER WAS BLACK, THERE was no getting away from it. As black as coal which, as it turned out, it was. Coal dust from the local pit washery several miles upstream was being dumped into the river; you couldn't see the bottom in an inch of water.

Every now and then, a dead or dying fish would break the surface. Trout, salmon parr, minnows and grayling littered the banks, all suffocating, their once-red gills now choked black with the silt.

I will admit that the sight brought tears to the eyes of local anglers, myself included. Our local angling club had about 40 members, with an annual subscription that would, in today's money, pay for a top-end spinning rod, with no change.

What we lacked in numbers and cash, we made up for in fight and willpower. Anger, too, that the river our club had turned into a top-class fishery was being used as a dumping ground by a multi-million-pound industry. It was not just the fish, but all the other wildlife that was being affected – the kingfishers, herons and otters that had returned through our club's hard work.

STAND TOGETHER

We gathered as many of the dead fish as we could and got a reporter from the local paper to take a picture of them all laid out on the bank. Our local

club didn't have enough capital to take on the Coal Board, but the River Authority did. The pit was prosecuted, the fine was more than £8,000, a massive sum in the 1970s. The mine has long since closed, but while it was working it never polluted our river again.

I no longer fish the little river – bass fishing has been my passion for many years. I drive past the river every day on my way to work, often seeing a heron or kingfisher, which makes the working day seem to pass a little easier.

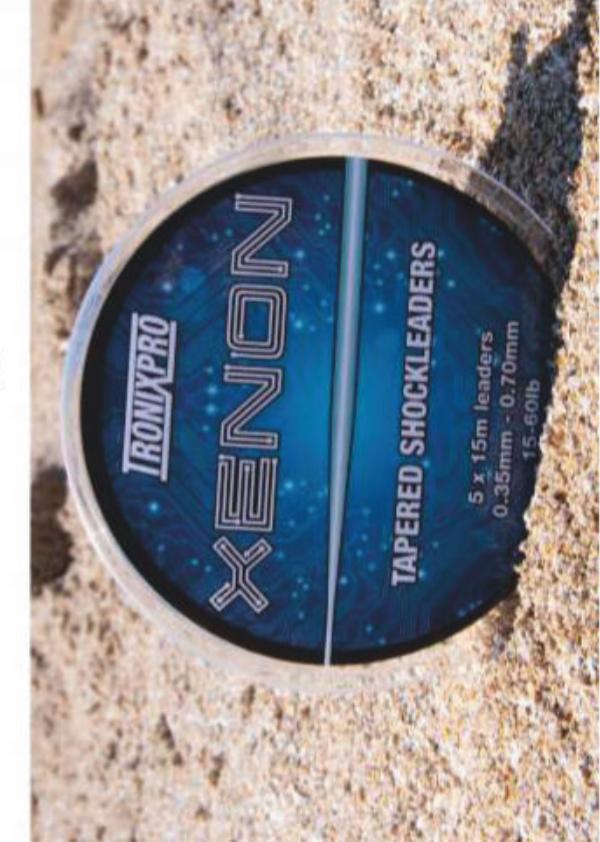
Surely as anglers, whether fresh, salt, game or coarse, we must stand together against all the threats, direct and indirect, that affect all fish.

Anglers are often the first line of defence for fish stocks, even if you just sign a petition or report pollution or illegal fishing. Even better, join your local club, the Angling Trust or BASS, increasing their membership and giving them more clout to fight for fish.

Please don't ridicule those that put in the hours and do their bit. Go on, remember fish need anglers like you to join the fight for them and a better angling experience for us all.



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Each issue we award a superb Shimano reel to the captor of the best shore fish and best boat-caught fish, both chosen on merit. There is no choice of prize, which is awarded at our discretion.



Dave Colclough, Poole, Dorset.
Fish: 14lb 8oz bull huss.
Bait: Squid and mackerel.
Venue: Mistress Linda (Phil Higgins), Poole, Dorset.
Date: Feb 3.



Steve Vosper, Plymouth, Devon.
Fish: 10lb 11oz bull huss.
Bait: Mackerel on a pulley rig.
Venue: Slapton Sands, Devon.
Date: Feb 8.



Mark Nixon, Houghton Conquest, Beds.
Fish: 13lb 8oz small-eyed ray.
Bait: Joey mackerel.
Venue: Teddy Boy (Mike Webber), Minehead, Somerset.
Date: Feb 6.



Matthew Phillips, Goodwick, Pembs.
Fish: 8lb 3oz bass.
Bait: Squid and Bluey on a pulley rig.
Venue: Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire.
Date: Jan 24.

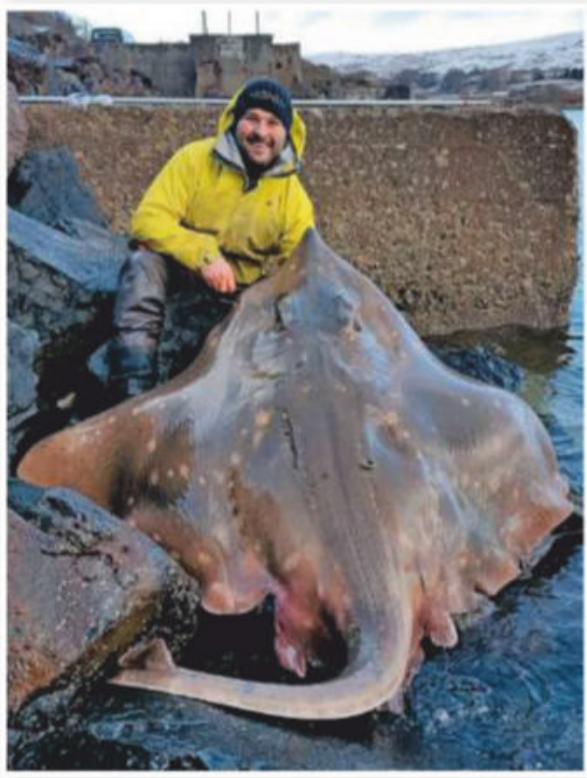


Kyle Sibbald, Workington, Cumbria.
Fish: 10lb 3oz thornback ray.
Bait: Squid and Bluey.
Venue: Whitehaven, Cumbria.
Date: Jan 20.

MONTHLY WINNERS
■ **SHORE:** Mark Jones, 20lb 8oz common skate.
■ **BOAT:** Mark Nixon, 13lb 8oz small-eyed ray.

In association with

SHIMANO



Mark Jones, Pontypridd, Rhondda.

Fish: 201lb 8oz common skate.

Bait: Whole mackerel on a size 14/0 hook.

Venue: Argyll, Highlands. **Date:** Feb 3.



Ben Daniel, New Milton, Hampshire.

Fish: 16lb 7oz undulate ray.

Bait: Mackerel on an up-and-over rig.

Venue: Milford-on-Sea, Hants. **Date:** Jan 2.



Christopher Noctor, Killybegs, County Donegal. **Fish:** 8lb 8oz bull huss.

Bait: Mackerel on a pulley rig.

Venue: Clew Bay, Co Mayo. **Date:** Jan 20.

MISSION RECORD HOLDERS

BASS

■ **Shore:** 19lb 13oz 8dr

John S Locker

■ **Boat:** 19lb 4oz

Wayne Milton

BLACK BREAM

■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz 1dr

C Le Monnier

■ **Boat:** 6lb 6oz

Tony Heart

COUCH'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 2lb 15oz 1dr

Lynton Carre

■ **Boat:** 6lb 9oz 7dr

Ray Fallaize

GILTHEAD BREAM

■ **Shore:** 9lb 8oz

Scott Smy

■ **Boat:** 10lb 2oz

Roger Simcox

PANDORA'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 1lb 2oz

Baz Wheater

RAY'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 6lb 1oz

Jordan Colwell

RED BREAM

■ **Boat:** 6lb 4oz

Patrick Meegan

BRILL

■ **Shore:** 6lb 12oz

Mark Griggs

■ **Boat:** 13lb 10oz

Tony Hayward

TURBOT

■ **Shore:** 20lb 2oz

Eddy Barham

■ **Boat:** 32lb 1oz

Steve Scally

BULL HUSS

■ **Shore:** 21lb 9oz

M Urquhart

■ **Boat:** 23lb

D Nicholson

COD

■ **Shore:** 32lb

Adrian Lloyd

■ **Boat:** 43lb 9oz

Chris Proctor

CONGER EEL

■ **Shore:** 66lb 8oz

Andy Eke

■ **Boat:** 109lb 8oz

Roger Beer

DAB

■ **Shore:** 2lb 4oz 12dr

Jason Tucker

■ **Boat:** 1lb 15oz

Sean McCaffrey

FLOUNDER

■ **Shore:** 4lb 14oz 8dr

Paul Blehs

■ **Boat:** 5lb 3oz 14dr

Philip Dawson

DOVER SOLE

■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz

Phil Troke

■ **Boat:** 4lb 6oz

M Le-Moignan

HALIBUT

■ **Boat:** 56lb 12oz

Peter Strickson

LEMON SOLE

■ **Boat:** 3lb 3oz

G Newcombe

MEGRIM

■ **Boat:** 2lb 14oz

Philip Lewis

PLAICE

■ **Shore:** 6lb 11oz

Martin Coates

■ **Boat:** 8lb 0oz 8dr

M Mowbray

LING

■ **Shore:** 18lb 11oz

Ross McKay

■ **Boat:** 88lb 6oz 8dr

G Laurenson

GOLDEN GREY

■ **Shore:** 3lb 8oz 8dr

D Woolcombe

■ **Boat:** 4lb 11oz

Stephan Martini

MULLET

■ **Shore:** 1lb 8oz

Glenn Lane

■ **Boat:** 1lb

Chris Harris

POLLACK

■ **Shore:** 18lb 4oz

Chris Griffin

■ **Boat:** 27lb 1oz

Barry James

BLONDE RAY

■ **Shore:** 31lb

Gary Tucker

■ **Boat:** 39lb 10oz

S Underwood

COMMON SKATE

■ **Shore:** 232lb

Lew Marsden

■ **Boat:** 249lb

Hans Dykman

CUCKOO RAY

■ **Shore:** 4lb 11oz

Kevin Hughes

■ **Boat:** 5lb 8oz

L Longmore

EAGLE RAY

■ **Shore:** 102lb

Ray Lewis

ELECTRIC RAY

■ **Boat:** 52lb

Chris Wood

MARLED

ELECTRIC

■ **Shore:** 11lb 1oz 5dr

Pierre Garrick

■ **Boat:** 21lb 7oz 12dr

David Bree

SMALL-EYED RAY

■ **Shore:** 17lb 8oz

M Robertson

■ **Boat:** 21lb

Dave Lynes

SPOTTED RAY

■ **Shore:** 7lb 14oz

Liam Warder

■ **Boat:** 8lb 4oz

Neil Buckett

STINGRAY

■ **Shore:** 7lb 6oz

Steve Harder

■ **Boat:** 69lb 8oz

John Styles

THORNBACK RAY

■ **Shore:** 22lb 11oz 10dr

Mike Johnson

■ **Boat:** 24lb 11oz

Gary Mewdell

UNDULATE RAY

■ **Shore:** 20lb 1oz

Steve Harder

■ **Boat:** 25lb 2oz

Scott Russell

ANGEL SHARK

■ **Boat:** 54lb

John Johnson

BLUE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 253lb

James Fellows

MAKO SHARK

■ **Shore:** 194lb 4oz

Andrew Griffith

PORBEAGLE



Andrew Davies, Caerphilly, Gwent.

Fish: 24lb 2oz blonde ray. **Bait:** Unwashed squid on a pulley rig. **Venue:** Barry, Vale of Glamorgan. **Date:** Jan 20.



Andy Powell, Neath, South Wales.

Fish: 12lb spurdog. **Bait:** Mackerel. **Venue:** Oystercat (Richard Pierce), Swansea. **Date:** Jan 19.

ENTRY FORM

Badges are sent out after your name appears in the magazine.

Name _____

Age _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel _____

Email _____

Type of fish _____

Caught at _____

Weight _____

Date caught _____

Bait/Rig _____

Caught from: shore boat

Boat name _____

Skipper _____

Port _____

Witness & tel _____

My fish was returned

was not returned

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SEND US YOUR ENTRIES AND WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES



■ The winners of the best shore-caught and boat-caught fish win a Shimano reel. The sponsor reserves the right to send an alternative prize of equal value.



YOUR MISSION TARGETS...

Catch a fish of this weight or above in your region to qualify for a badge. South is the area below a line drawn from the River Mersey to The Wash. North is the area above a line drawn from the River Mersey to The Wash.

NORTH

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	6lb	7lb
Black bream	1lb	2lb
Red bream	2lb	2lb
Couch's &		
Pandora's bream	1lb	1lb
Gilthead bream	2lb	2lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	2lb	4lb
Bull huss	7lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	15lb
Conger	19lb	30lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Ling	5lb	18lb
Mullet	3lb	4lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	10lb
Common skate	60lb	140lb
Blonde ray	10lb	14lb
Thornback ray	8lb	13lb
Small-eyed/undulate	6lb	10lb
Ray (other)	3lb	4lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	8lb	9lb
Spurdog	6lb	10lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Turbot	4lb	12lb
Wrasse (ballan)	3lb	3lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	52lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	155lb

SOUTH

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	8lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's &		
Pandora's bream	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	15lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	113lb

THE RULES...

- Only fish caught since February 2019 are eligible.
- We must see a picture of the fish. We may refuse an entry.
- You can claim one badge per species in an issue.
- A further badge can be awarded in future only if you set a new personal best.
- Enter by post using the coupon; by email (please include information requested on the postal form) to paul.fenech@bauermedia.co.uk
- Prizes are as stated (Shimano reserves the right to send alternatives).
- No correspondence will be entered into.



In association with

SHIMANO



Matthew Mizen, Weymouth, Dorset.

Fish: 24lb 3oz blonde ray.
Bait: Sandeel and squid on a pulley rig.
Venue: Chesil Beach, Dorset.
Date: Feb 1.



Steven Gatland, Modbury, Devon.

Fish: 6lb 12oz spotted ray.
Bait: Sandeel on a pulley rig.
Venue: Modbury, Devon.
Date: Dec 30.



Jack Page, Burton, Cheshire.

Fish: 10lb 4oz bull huss.
Bait: Herring and cuttlefish on a Pennell rig.
Venue: Holyhead breakwater, Anglesey.
Date: Jan 2.

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YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its younger readers



Fishing from Southsea pier in Portsmouth, Hampshire, **Ruby Allen** caught this garfish. The eight-year-old, from Southampton, used ragworms on a float set-up.



A Boxing Day shore session for **Elena Archer** yielded plenty of dabs when she visited the beach at Dunwich, on the Suffolk coast. The 10-year-old, from Eye, Suffolk, used lugworm baits and tells us she had loads of bites.



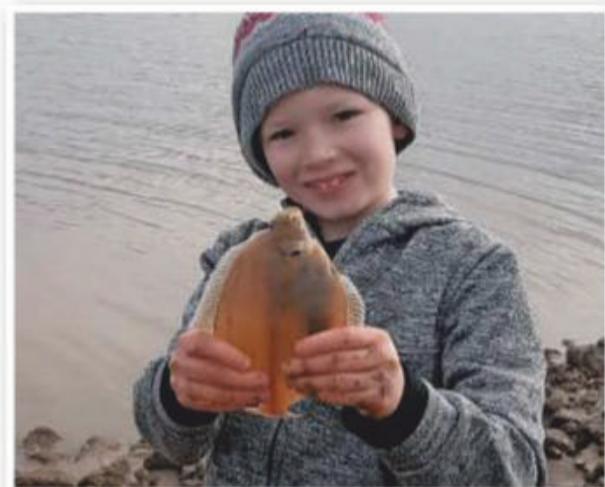
Logan Scott, of Workington, Cumbria, caught a personal best thornback ray weighing 9lb 5oz when he presented a mackerel bait on a Pennell-pulley rig.



Fifteen-year-old **Joseph Russell**, of Washington, Tyne & Wear, caught this 9lb 8oz cod on cart and black lug on a Pennell rig with size 4/0 and 1/0 hooks while fishing at Lynemouth beach, Northumberland.



Louie Durrant beached this cracking 6lb bass during a recent night session from a local shore venue. The 15-year-old, from Hove, in East Sussex, presented a whole squid mounted to a pulley-dropper rig and returned the fish to the sea.



Louie Martin travelled from his home in Birmingham to Mostyn, in North Wales, for his first ever shore fishing session. Using a two-hook flapper rig and frozen black lug for bait, the eight-year-old enjoyed a productive trip, catching and releasing flounders and dabs.



Katie Hubbard from Easington, in County Durham, caught this flounder from her local beach. The 11-year-old used black lug and razorfish for bait.



**SeaAngler
BOAT WINNER**



Oliver Sagar, aged six, from Leeds, landed his best spurdog, this 13-pounder, while on Spindrift, out of Holyhead, Anglesey. He has caught 16 species so far from both east and west coasts since he started fishing at the age of three.

In association with



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Fishingmegastore.com awards a £25 voucher prize to each of two winners - the youngster with the best shore fish and another with the top boat catch. The winners can use the voucher to select tackle from **Fishingmegastore.com** which is based in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

■ **HOW TO ENTER:** We prefer digital photographs sent by email to paul.fenech@bauermedia.co.uk Please include the details listed on the form (right). Prints can be sent by post with the form.



If your picture is published in Young Rods, you will receive a FREE pair of rod wraps. Don't forget to include your current address when submitting your entry.



Nine-year-old **Zachary Stacey**, from Southend-on-Sea, Essex, fished his local pier, which is the UK's longest at 1.34 miles (2.16km), to catch this 1lb 1oz whiting on a worm and mackerel combination.



With a few cod showing in the North East, **Sam Mundell** headed to Blyth pier during favourable conditions. The 12-year-old, from Ashington, Northumberland, used ragworms mounted to a single 3/0 hook to catch his maiden codling weighing 2lb 4oz.



Finnan Williams, from Croespenmaen, Caerphilly, shows off a decent flounder that measured 34cm. The 11-year-old caught and released it from the shore at Amroth, Pembs, when he presented a wishbone rig armed with size 6 hooks carrying harbour rag for bait.



This 10lb thornback ray fell to a cocktail of squid and ragworms presented by **Owen Boffy**, from Barry, Vale of Glamorgan. The nine-year-old was fishing aboard Phat Cat Charters, skippered by Craig Deans out of Cardiff.

YOUNG RODS ENTRY FORM

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Age: _____

Daytime tel: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Type of fish: _____

Date caught: _____

Caught at: _____

Weight: _____

Bait: _____

Rig/tackle: _____

Shore

Charter boat

Private boat

Boat name: _____

Skipper: _____

Port: _____

My fish was returned

Not returned

I enclose an SAE

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14' 3 6oz Fixed Spool	3pc £275	RRP £219.00
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16' 3 6oz Fixed Spool	3pc £315	RRP £249.00
11' 6" 1 3oz FS 2pc Bass	2pc £210	RRP £165.00

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13' 3 7oz Fixed Spool	2pc £125	RRP £107.99
14' 3 7oz Fixed Spool	2pc £135	RRP £116.99
15' 3 7oz Fixed Spool	2pc £145	RRP £125.99
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13' 4 8oz Fixed Spool	2pc £85	RRP £69.99
14' 4 8oz	2pc £90	RRP £74.99
15' 4 8oz	2pc £95	RRP £79.99

GREYS BEACHCASTING RODS		
GR100S NEW	RRP £189.99	PRICE £189.99
13' 4" 4 6oz Beach	2pc £329.99	RRP £199.00
13' 9" 5 7oz Shore	2pc £329.99	RRP £199.00
13' Beach Power Multiplier	2pc £189.99	RRP £199.00
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13' 8" 4-7oz Multiplier		

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Scandia Trouser	£79	RRP £89.99
Scandia Jacket	£109	RRP £99.99
Two Piece		
One Piece		

FR Match Extreme - 2 Piece		
13' 8" 5-8oz Multiplier	£169.99	RRP £89.00
13' 8" 5-8oz Fixed		
As above in Black/Yellow £159 from £129.99		

Cobra GT Surf		
14' 100 200g	£359.99	RRP £269.00
15' 100 200g	£379.99	RRP £279.00
Cobra Light Surfcasting		
Envoy Surf Rods		

Envoy Surf Game NEW		
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Envoy Surf Rods		

Envoy Tournament		
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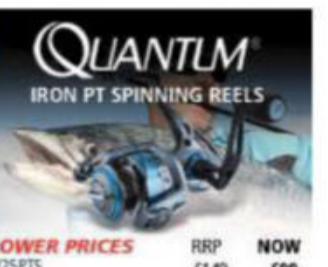
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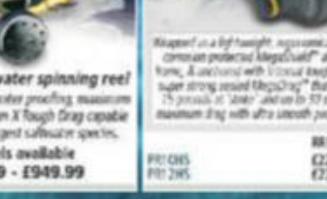
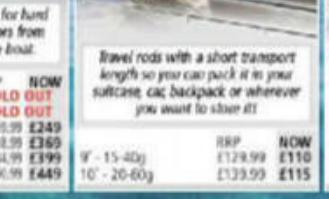
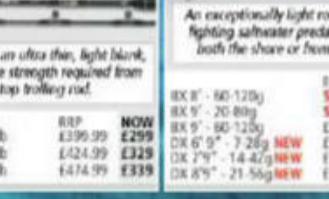
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BOAT ANGLER

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Words and
photography by
DAVE LEWIS



Lady Gail II at
her mooring



WHAT DOES £35 BUY YOU THESE DAYS? HALF a tank of fuel for an average family car, that is assuming you fill up at a supermarket. A few hours down the pub followed by a bag of fish and chips on the way home, well that depends entirely on which part of the country you live in; in some places you might have to settle for a hot dog.

What if I were to tell you that there is a place where £35 buys you a place aboard a charter boat, and if you round things off at £40 the skipper will even supply the tackle and bait.

Tucked away in the south-west corner of Wales, Milford Haven has, in recent years, received much publicity for the excellent shark fishing found offshore, but charter boats have been operating here long before the current influx of boats started to arrive each summer to fish for sharks. ▶



Award-winning
skipper Fen Duke

Occasionally, local boats used to run offshore and target sharks, but the focus for most anglers who used to fish from 'The Haven' had always been traditional mixed ground inshore fishing; bread and butter charter fishing over the many reefs, wrecks, sandbanks and other areas of productive ground that you'll find at this most beautiful part of the world.

SHELTERED FISHING

By the end of October, most of the visiting shark boats have relocated to their home ports at the eastern end of the Bristol Channel, but one or two local vessels remain and fish through the winter. They catch plenty of fish, too, and a wide variety of different species, often from some of the most sheltered water imaginable.

Rather than being an estuary filled with brackish water, The Haven is a natural 'ria,' a drowned valley that was flooded at the end of the last Ice Age. Consequently, you can catch many species of saltwater fish within this vast waterway, often many miles from the open sea at St Anne's Head.

Fen Duke is the skipper of Lady Gail II, a 10-metre Starfish that throughout the spring and summer is moored at Dale, near the mouth of The Haven, moving to the shelter of Milford Haven Marina during the winter.

In mid-January I joined Fen, a lifelong angler, and his wife Penny, along with a crew of four regulars, on a six-hour charter trip that, at this time of the year, is available for just £35, with an extra £5 covering bait and tackle.

Six hours might seem short when compared to the eight, 10 or even 12-hour trips that are more typical aboard charter boats around the country, but during the depths of winter, six hours is plenty long enough for most, especially when you consider many, if not most, of the marks Fen fishes at this time of the year are located just 30-minutes or less from the marina lock gates. This means that, typically, you get five hours fishing at anchor on these trips. How long do you get with a fishing rod in your hand on a 10 or 12-hour wrecking trip?

Just after 11am we slipped out of the marina and headed west towards the mouth of The Haven, passing the impressive oil and gas terminals.



A selection of fish for bait

Penny Duke with a nice whiting



With the wind blowing a steady 20mph out of the north-west, it was forecast to increase to 30 or even 40mph by the end of the day. Given the addition of a hefty ground swell rolling in from the Atlantic, had we been booked to fish out of most ports in the UK, our trip would certainly have been cancelled.

Such is the unique topography of this area that when the anchor rattled over the side less than half-an-hour later, we were completely sheltered from the wind.

EARLY INTEREST

Fen had positioned us on a patch of mixed ground close to a wreck, one of several that are located throughout the lower half of The Haven. Trips in the past week had produced plenty of whiting, dogfish, huss, rays and congers, he explained, and these were the species we had

set out to target. For bait we had a selection of frozen fish, including locally-caught launce and whiting, along with cuttlefish and squid.

Gareth Walters, one of the crew who fishes with Fen regularly throughout the winter, had some fresh ragworms, because he'd heard that quite a few codling had been showing in recent weeks. Baited strings of bait-catching lures covered the whiting, a simple running leger was ideal for everything else.

It didn't take long for our baits to attract some interest. First dogfish and whiting were rattling our rod tips and, ultimately, were being hauled over the side. At first most of the whiting were undersized, but as the ebb tide spread the combined scent trail from our baits, more and much bigger fish were soon making an appearance. Freshly-caught whiting make great eating, and among the many dozens we caught

The rod tips were soon rattling at The Haven



Gareth Walters enjoyed some conger action



that day were plenty of plump pan-sized fish, and these were destined for a fish supper.

After an hour or so Penny hooked into what clearly was a more substantial fish. With Fen standing by with the landing net, the general consensus was that it was a huss, which indeed it was, a very nice one, too. Not long afterwards James Duke hooked another lively fish, which I was amazed to see was a smoothhound. Typically, these are long gone from the South Wales coast by January, and we don't expect to see them inshore until April at the earliest.

Fen assured me that, during recent winters, hounds are far from unusual during his winter trips. The week before his crews had landed mackerel and a double-figure bass.

EEL REPUTATION

Milford Haven has a reputation for producing big conger eels, and recent trips aboard Lady Gail had produced plenty of these, including several approaching 40lb. Night fishing is particularly productive for eels, and evening trips aboard Lady Gail are very popular.

However, large fish baits dropped in the close

vicinity of a wreck during the daytime are likely to attract some attention. Sure enough, just as low water approached, Gareth Walters boated a very respectable inshore eel. Later, when the rest of the crew said goodbye and headed for home, Gareth would be remaining aboard because he had arranged to be joined by a couple of friends on another six-hour night session, specifically looking to catch big eels.

We caught fish from the start of the session right through until Fen eventually fired up the engine to return to the marina. I stepped ashore a little after 5pm, following a busy, fun-filled day that had produced a lot of fish with minimal effort, or financial outlay. With the exception of two or three species of rays that failed to show, we had caught everything we had expected – a bread and butter day's charter fishing where everyone caught something and got some quality fresh fish to take home. That works for me! ■

NEED TO KNOW

CHARTER BOATS

■ Fen Duke works Lady Gail II as part of Broadside Boat Charters with Andy Truelove, who skips Atlantic Blue. In addition to shark trips throughout the summer, these two boats can be booked for inshore trips of varying lengths, starting from taster sessions. Inshore tope fishing and reef fishing around the prolific Hats and Barrels Reef are two trips that I am keen to join this year.

Accommodation can be arranged near Dale, the boat's summer base. For more information, tel: 07768 935681.

■ Web: www.broadsidedale.co.uk
■ Facebook: Broadside Boat Charter.

TACKLE SHOP

■ Anglers Corner in Milford Haven is open seven days a week. Contact Martin or Sandra Thompson, tel: 01646 698899.

A surprise smoothhound for James Duke



**BOATFISHING WITH BARHAM**

Whitby winter warmer

A session at Whitby immediately
after the coldest night of the year
...but we still find some hot sport



A cod taken on
cart by skipper
Paul Kilpatrick

If you went back ten or so years and talked to any local angler in Whitby, the word 'uptidng' would have probably drawn a blank face. Nowadays, though, most anglers in the area can't get enough of the method for catching cod.

A lot has changed in recent years in the North East with regard to how anglers and skippers approach their fishing, and if there's one place in the country where you can guarantee to catch cod it's Whitby.

During the summer, anglers use 12lb-class boat rods or 10-40g lure rods and reels loaded with braid to catch cod and ling on shads, artificial eels and single squid baits fished on the drift. Gone are the days of 50lb-class gear and buckets full of pirlks. Perhaps the biggest change in this area has to be the tactic of up tide fishing at anchor during the winter.

The sheer number of fish to be caught within a few hundred yards of the Whitby shoreline never ceases to amaze me. In days gone by you had to steam out for 40-plus miles to hit the wrecks in order to catch, but now it's more like five miles along the coast. A few years ago, a handful of charter skippers decided to fish closer to the shore, and the results were so encouraging that they have been doing it ever since.

HIGH HOPES

I was talking to my friend Roger Cooling, who has bought a new boat, and the subject got around to cod fishing. Neither of us had caught one so far this year, so after asking him about his plans I made a quick call to skipper Paul Kilpatrick, who runs the charter boat Sea Otter 2 and he managed to save three spaces on a trip the next day for Roger, my pal Jim Midgley and me. However, it would be a four o'clock start the following morning.

Little did we know that 'tomorrow' morning was going to be the coldest of the year. When we got to the harbour the temperature was minus 8°C and the sea in the harbour had begun to freeze too.

Having grown up fishing the Thames Estuary, uptidng is second nature to me, so I was confident that I could catch a few fish. However, there was one small problem. It turns out that the local seal population has worked out that by hanging around the boat, they can grab plenty of free meals off anglers' lines. It was ▶



becoming such a problem that Paul was going to push along the coast for about nine miles in an attempt to avoid them.

TACKLE AND BAIT

I knew we would be fishing over rough ground, so I opted for a running leger rig with a 6oz fixed-grip lead with long wires. I debated using a rotten-bottom set-up, but after speaking to skipper Paul I decided that the ground wouldn't be too hungry, being mainly rock and slate.

The long wires on a fixed-grip lead would dig into the rock, but would bend out with steady pressure. Using short-wire breakout leads would probably end with more lost tackle, because the wires would take longer to find a hold and, with the lead weight rolling around, it's far easier for it to roll into a crack or crevice and become stuck.

I opted for a 50lb mono trace and a Pennell rig with two size 5/0 Sakuma Manta hooks to carry whole squid or large black lug baits.

Paul was the man who introduced me (and many others) to 'cart' bait, the roe and shell scrapings of the edible crab. He had plenty on board, but in recent weeks the bulk of the fish had fallen to either black lug and squid cocktails or plain squid baits, so that's what I opted for.

I was using one rod, but I'd tied a Breakaway Fast Link to the end of my line after the small boom and bead, and tied up a couple of hooklengths with swivels on the ends so I could double-pat effectively. Basically, I could clip on a rig, cast it out, wait for a bite, reel it in and just unclip it, clip on another rig and then cast back out before dealing with the fish on the other hooklength. Fishing like this doubles your time in the water, and it can account for lots more fish during a session – ask any beach angler.

GREAT SPORT

It didn't take long for the fish to start biting, and within the first 10 minutes we had three codling of 3-5lb on board. The sport continued for a couple of hours until the tide died away, and we already had a couple of boxes of cod to 6lb. Even the cart bait couldn't seduce a double-figure fish.

Paul decided that a move was on the cards for the turn of the tide. We moved a couple of miles along the coast, near a shore mark where Paul, who is a keen shore angler too, had caught many double-figure cod in recent years.

The skipper was first into fish, then one of the other lads followed quickly. Both fish took cart baits. I managed to catch consistently throughout the next couple of hours on both whole squid and cocktail baits. As we neared the end of the session, we'd caught more than 70 cod between the five of us, returning plenty and keeping seven each to take home.

What's more, although we did eventually have three seals around the boat, we didn't lose a single fish that we hooked to them.

NEED TO KNOW

If you'd like to book a trip out with Paul, give him a call: 07748 705695, or check out his Sea Otter 2 Facebook page.

HOW TO MOUNT A COCKTAIL ON A PENNELL RIG



Wrap two black lug together with bait elastic, then whip them to a whole squid.



Pass the point of the bottom hook through the tail (thin) end of the squid.



Now you pull the point out of the squid bait so that it looks something like this.



Holding on to the bend of the hook, and then pull the entire hook out of the bait.



Place point of the hook into the exit hole you just made and repeat the process.



Finish off by passing the point of the hook between the eyes of the squid bait.



Holding the bait, gently pull hooklength to remove loops of line so bait sits straight.



To secure top hook of the Pennell, wrap hooklength around it three or four times.



Pass hookpoint through tail end, hold the bait and pull the hooklength to tighten it.



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Advice on board

What is it and why should boat and kayak anglers use it?

EVER WONDERED IF YOUR BOAT OR kayak is properly kitted out for use at sea? There's an easy way to find out with Advice Onboard, a free service provided by the RNLI.

This replaces Sea Check (the name was changed because people thought it was an MoT-type inspection) and is provided by the RNLI's Community Safety Team. These trained volunteers are supported by a full-time team at the RNLI's headquarters in Poole.

The service is available for any leisure craft up to 13.7 metres long, and there is no lower size limit, so it includes small inflatables and kayaks. While the RNLI cannot do this for larger or commercial craft, it is able to offer specific advice, for example on lifejackets, for owners of such craft.

HOW IT WORKS

An Advice Onboard visit is requested by the boat owner. Such requests range from those who have yet to go out in a new boat, to others who are experienced, although there has been some resistance from very experienced boaters.

You must sign a disclaimer agreeing it was not an assessment of whether equipment is in working condition, as you can't do this with flares, for instance. The form acts as a checklist, and there is space on the reverse for noting suggestions made to the owner.

The only record kept by the RNLI is the owner's name and address (not compulsory) and a few details about the boat and some life jacket statistics. The confidential inspection takes account of how the boat is used.

Recently, I tagged along when my friends Andy Samuel and Glyn Pressley arranged for RNLI community safety officer Andrew Lowe to look at the equipment on their boat, Happy Days. ►





ADVICE ON BOARD

How it worked on Happy Days...



■ **ANCHOR:** The anchor, a Bruce, was of sufficient size and rigged with enough chain and warp that ran through appropriate fairleads.

As the anchor was set to trip, ways were discussed to ensure it couldn't happen during emergency deployment, by having a shackle readily available to attach the chain to the anchor in a hurry. An appropriate spare anchor and rope is also carried on Happy Days.

■ **EMERGENCY PROPULSION:** Other means of propulsion were covered, but there was nothing practical that could be fitted to Happy Days.

Given a modern, reliable engine that the skipper knows well and maintains well, it is important to carry an appropriate tool kit and engine spares, such as belts and filters.

■ **FIRE PRECAUTIONS:** Fire blankets are essential on most boats. No naked flames are used on Happy Days, and there is no gas cooker, so no need to carry a fire blanket. Fire extinguishers are essential – CO₂ for electrics, with dry powder for other fires, including fuel. Working extinguishers of appropriate size and type are carried on Happy Days.



■ **FIRST AID:** Carry a first aid kit. Andy and Glyn have both done a first aid course, and also carry a flip book for quick reference to first aid procedures.



■ **FLARES:** A selection of distress flares should be kept in an easily accessible, dry, sensible location, away from any potential fire points. The crew should know how to operate them and know the dangers of their use, such as in the event of a fuel spill or a helicopter overhead. It is advisable to wear a glove when firing flares.

The RNLI recommends that all flares are within date. A Coastal Pack consisting of 2 x orange smoke, 2 x red pinpoint, 2 x rockets, plus a pair of additional rockets is perfect for boats such as Happy Days.



■ **HULL REPAIR:** A hull repair kit is often overlooked, but is essential. Bungs for seacocks were on board, and should be tethered or clipped near to the seacocks so they would be close to hand in an emergency.

■ **KILL CORD:** An essential item aboard most small boats and on those with an outboard engine, but not entirely appropriate on vessels operated from within a cabin.

■ **LIFEBOOYS:** Happy Days had two ring lifebuoys fitted on the cabin roof, designed to float off should the boat sink. The roof location meant if an occupant had gone overboard



because of a heavy sea, the cabin roof might not be where anyone else would want to climb to fetch a lifebuoy.

Ring buoys can be difficult for a person to get into when in the water. A soft, horseshoe lifebuoy, located within the cockpit, is easier to deploy and easier to get into in the water. Ideally, it should be fitted with a light and a drogue, because they are so light that in a wind they might drift right past the Man Over Board.

■ **NAVIGATION:** Non-electronic navigational aids are essential and should include appropriate charts, steering compass and hand bearing compass of the kind that could also



THE RNLI'S TOP TIPS FOR WATERCRAFT

■ 1 Get some training for your activity.

■ 2 Check weather and tides for the duration of your trip.

■ 3 Tell someone where you're going, what time you'll be back and ensure they know who to contact if you don't return when stated. They should dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard. This is where the Safe Trx app is so important.



■ 4 Maintain your engine in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. Know how to carry out simple maintenance tasks.

■ 5 Carry sufficient fuel for your trip. As a minimum, follow the 'thirds rule,' which is a third to get there, a third to get back, plus a third in reserve.

■ 6 Carry an effective means of calling for help. The GG66 scheme is being phased out, and boaters are advised to use the Safe Trx app on their smart phones, which is supported by the RYA to allow it to be free to UK users.

WHAT IS SAFE TRX?

Users set up the app providing details of their boat and emergency contacts.

The app is launched at the start of your trip. Enter a sail plan and the app texts

be used as a steering compass. Of course, it is important that the crew know how to use them.

GPS, radar and echo-sounder, in the form of two chart plotters and a fish-finder, are installed on Happy Days. From the RNLI's point of view, electronic navigation aids are not essential, and, while they are almost universal, the RNLI would be happy with boaters who navigate 'old school'.



■ NAVIGATION LIGHTS: Required lights are red and green sidelights visible from at least two miles away or, if the boat is less than 12 metres long, at least one mile away, on a dark, clear night. You also need an all-round white light (if vessel is less than 12m), or both a masthead light and a stern light.

All leisure motor boats need an anchor ball to be displayed in the fore part of the boat when at anchor. Keeping spare bulbs onboard is recommended.

■ RADAR REFLECTOR: The reflector on Happy Days is an octahedral type and readily available to deploy. This type tests well, makes the boat visible to radar on other boats, and offers good value.

For maximum efficiency, it should be deployed in the 'rain-catching position'.

■ RADIO: A VHF radio is normally the primary means of calling for help. Correctly installed, it will be able to reach anyone within range, giving direction-finding capability from transmissions, plus position indication if the emergency button is used.

Two DSC sets are fitted on Happy Days and connected to GPS, with MMSI number

entered. It is a legal requirement to have an operator's licence.

A handheld VHF is also recommended, in the event of having to abandon the boat, a total power failure or loss of antenna. A waterproof, handheld VHF can be attached to a lifejacket for a Man Over Board to call for help.

Where the handheld is the only VHF, consideration could be given to having a DSC handheld so you have the advantage of the emergency button, which is ideal if there are guests on board who are unfamiliar with radio operation. An EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) is also carried on Happy Days.

■ RECOVERY EQUIPMENT: In the event of a Man Over Board (MOB), the remaining crew must transmit an immediate Mayday. If only one person is left in the boat, they must watch the MOB, try to get the boat to them and make the Mayday call. Here, a DSC 'red button' on the VHF is ideal, otherwise, once you're trying to recover the MOB, it may be too difficult to make the call.

With only one person left on the boat, getting the MOB back into the boat is difficult or



your contacts to let them know you're starting a trip and what time you're expected back. The text also includes a link that they can click to track your boat.

While the sail plan is running, a two-stage emergency call button appears on the boatowner's phone. During the trip you can extend the time you're expected back. When your planned end of trip is reached, you receive a text to remind you to end your sail plan, at which stage your contacts will receive a text to say you're back.

If you don't end the sail



plan, it texts you another reminder 15 minutes later. If you still don't end the plan, 15 minutes after that it texts your contacts to say you're overdue, again with the link to track your boat, asking them to contact you, and also tells them to call the Coastguard if they can't get an answer.

The tracking facility shows where you are or were in the case of a catastrophe. Safe Trx does not replace a VHF, PLB or EPIRB as the most effective means of

impossible, if they're unable to self-help. Aboard Happy Days, a throw line is kept on a fitting within the cabin. It is better to get close to a MOB and then throw them a line, rather than to risk colliding with them.

A bathing platform on Happy Days aids MOB recovery, but it is easier to climb on it if there is a ladder fitted that folds down to immerse two or three rungs in the water.

The previous owner had left a rope ladder which, being made of floating rope, meant it wouldn't get into the boat's stern gear. A floating rope ladder is easier for the MOB to find, but the person would have to push it under water to get a foothold. In practice, climbing a rope ladder is harder than it might seem, because it tends to go under the boat as soon as you put any weight on it. Remember, an engine should be switched off for any MOB recovery.

■ STEERING: Happy Days has a facility for an emergency tiller to be fitted in the event of a steering problem. It is necessary to be able to release the hydraulics, and/or to have spanners of the correct size handy to be able to disconnect the steering arm.

■ OTHER ITEMS: Buckets have multiple uses, ranging from 'bucket and chuck it' (a safer way to spend a penny on board than over the side!), use as an emergency bailer, rigging as a drogue or sea anchor if the bucket is strong enough; or possibly even a way of steering a boat at low speed by dragging over the stern at one side.

Bilge pumps were next, and Happy Days has several of sufficient capacity, plus a hand bilge pump. Finally, always carry an emergency knife, binoculars, plenty of emergency water and a comprehensive set of warm clothing.



calling for help, if people on the boat are able to call for help themselves. Visit: www.safetrxapp.com

CONTACT

Three ways to book an Advice On Board visit:

- Ask for the Community Safety Officer at your nearest RNLI station.**
- Tel: 0300 300 9990.**
- Web: <https://rnli.org/safety/what-we-can-do-for-you/what-we-can-do-enquiry>**

■ NEXT ISSUE: LIFEJACKETS AND THEIR SERVICING

BOAT ANGLER



Words and
photography by
DAVE BARHAM



AIR MAIL



Magical Madeira

If you want to target a 'grander' blue marlin
this island is one of the leading destinations

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There's a very good chance
of a 'grander' while fishing
out of Calheta

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SET OUT WITH the intention of catching a huge marlin, many years in fact. So, when charter captain To Neves invited me over to Madeira for a few days, I was more than happy to take him up on his offer.

I'd heard numerous stories over the years, and seen the reports all over social media from some really big names in the world of marlin fishing, recording catches of truly monstrous blue marlin out of the port of Calheta, in Madeira.

The fact that one of the world's most successful billfish captains, Frothy De Silva, decides to spend his summer season working from the port really says it all. With big billfish on my mind, I swiftly booked two flights for my friend Jim Midgley and myself. I was pleasantly surprised too, with each return flight costing a little under £190. The trip was booked, and one of the fishing days just happened to fall on my birthday – was it an omen?

The waters off Calheta are deep, warm and full of life. Huge shoals of baitfish are what attract the marlin to pass through here. The boats start their season around mid-April and fish right up to the end of September, with May to late August the prime time for the marlin.

Fishing begins literally 60 seconds out of the marina, such is the nature of the underwater topography – it gets deep really quickly. Believe it or not, there have many monstrous blue marlin caught within minutes of the lures hitting the water, which is another reason why the fishing out of Calheta appeals to anglers worldwide –

you can get hooked up at any point, at any time of the day.

Why is Madeira considered to be one of the world's greatest destinations for big blue marlin? It's quite simple – a 500lb fish is considered small here. The number of 650lb to 900lb blue marlin caught each season is staggering, and when you throw a handful of 1,000lb-plus fish into the mix, it all becomes clear. They just don't get small blue marlin here, very rarely, if at all.

I don't want to give you the wrong impression, though. Yes, there are really good numbers of big marlin here, but it's not always easy to catch them. Just as with any other form of fishing, you need a bit of luck on your side, but the mere fact that there are so many big fish caught each year means the odds are certainly stacked in your favour.

SKIPPER AND BOAT

Captain To Neves and his first mate Claudio are both experienced fishermen with a wealth of local knowledge. I have to say that this dynamic duo forms one of the best teams that either Jim or I have fished with around the world. Their professionalism and attention to detail is extraordinary, and the service on board is top class. Not only that, they're both really funny guys and we all got on really well.

Captain To began fishing with his father as soon as he was able to hold a rod and, as with many of us, fishing has always been the driving passion in his life.

At the age of 10 he started 'borrowing' his dad's boat to go fishing. He got a job as a first mate

when he was 20, and that's when he got involved in serious big-game fishing.

He started skippering at the age of 24 and began entering tournaments, ranking national champion twice in a row in 2007 and 2008, and taking bronze in the FIPS World Championship in Xabia in 2009. Since then he has competed and ranked in many championships, as well as skippering several boats in the Algarve, until he decided to buy his own boat and take it back home to Calheta.

The Dream Catcher is an American-built Rampage 31, one of the toughest boats ever made. Powered by twin Volvo Penta KAMD 42 engines, which produce a top speed of 30 knots, this boat flies, and is really great fun to fish from.

The boat comes fully rigged with world-class fishing tackle and electronics, including Shimano and Penn reels ranging from 30lb to 130lb-class, plus Raymarine GPS and fish-finder.

She also boasts a fighting chair, head, livewell, outriggers, a spacious interior and flybridge where you can relax in between bites, and a small galley.

All trips come with fishing licences for all on board, and free cleaning and filleting for anything you want to take away with you. Drinks and snacks are included in the price, and you are also more than welcome to bring your own snorkel or scuba gear too.

Prices are €700 for a half day or €1,200 for the boat for the day, which includes as many cold drinks as you like, plus a first-class lunch and snacks. The maximum number of anglers per day is three, so that works out at €400 each.

Dream Catcher is an amazing boat and a real pleasure to fish from



Rigged and
ready off
Madeira



OUR TRIP

Although this trip was, in essence, a flying visit with only three days of fishing, I had the most amazing time.

The people of Madeira are exceptionally friendly, and after touching down at Funchal we were greeted by our taxi driver, who drove us the 45 minutes or so to Calheta. During the drive we learned all about the history of the island, its traditions and the main businesses that fuel the local economy.

The driver told us Madeira is a relatively small island, measuring 45 miles long by about 14 miles deep. Madeira, which is located in the Atlantic Ocean to the south-west of Portugal, is famous for its banana plantations and vineyards. Yes, Madeira wine is both excellent quality and very reasonably priced.

When we arrived at the marina we were shown to our accommodation for the next four nights – it was no-frills, but absolutely perfect for a pair of huge, beer-swilling anglers such as Jim and me. The room is situated right on the marina, with a balcony overlooking the water.

There are a few bars and restaurants along the marina front, so you have everything you need right on your doorstep. Jim worked out that it was 80 paces to the nearest bar below from the door to our digs. The food is good, the beer and wine are great and you can expect to eat and drink well for £30 per night. If you just want food and a couple of beers then budget for £15.

THE FISHING

During our first day afloat there wasn't much going on fish-wise. None of the boats had

reported any strikes or even raised a fish. It was a great opportunity for Joao Fronteira, though, who had joined us on board for the day.

Joao owns Fronteira Lures, one of the sponsors of the boat, and he has a wealth of knowledge. He'd popped over to see To in order to give him some new lures, and to test out a couple of prototypes of fish dredges. If you don't know what a dredge is, it's basically a huge teaser made up of eight or more wire prongs which hold daisy chains of smaller teasers behind them.

The particular set-up that Joao was testing had a 'dredge cam' inserted, which is basically an aerodynamic housing to hold a GoPro camera and help keep the dredge running true. It gives a great insight into what's going on below the surface, and you quite often witness marlin coming right up to the teasers, which are towed just a few yards behind the stern, without ever actually seeing them from the boat.

On our second day, my birthday, I was in for a real treat. I was greeted on the boat in the morning to a round of 'Happy Birthday', complete with a chocolate cake with a couple of white marlin lures sticking out the top instead of candles.

We'd been fishing for a couple of hours or so when all of a sudden Captain To began shouting from the flybridge. Crewman Claudio was already on the deck, tweaking lines and darting from rod to rod as the biggest marlin I have ever seen entered the spread of lures behind us and inhaled the teaser just a few yards off the stern of the boat. The fish was immense and my heart skipped a few beats and began to pound so hard I thought it was going to pop out of my chest.

I was straight into the chair, hoping, praying that she would take one of the lures. As To wound the teaser in and out of the water, the big girl turned and smashed into the right-hand ▶



Joao Fronteira checks one of his prototype dredges



short lure, pulling line from the reel's drag in the process, but the hooks didn't stick. She then moved back in the spread and hit the right-hand long lure, pulling the line out of the outrigger clip, but again the hooks didn't find a hold.

ADRENALINE RUSH

By now I was shaking with adrenaline. I had the second-best seat in the house to watch this spectacle as it unfolded, and I was sure that today was going to be the day.

The huge blue marlin stayed with us for a good three or four minutes, weaving in and out of the lures before turning and hitting the left-hand long lure really hard. The rod buckled over and the drag began to scream. This was it, we'd hooked an absolute beast. The huge marlin jumped three times before the line went slack as she tossed the lure skywards – the hooks hadn't stuck, and I was gutted. Both To and Claudio called her a good 800lb, possibly 850lb, but it just wasn't to be.

Of course, I felt devastated when that line went slack, but the feeling only lasted for an hour or two and we were soon back to the banter and another rather amazing lunch prepared by Claudio – huge baguettes filled with meat and one of the tastiest salads I've ever eaten.



Although we'd just lost the fish of a lifetime, I was happy to have witnessed the event and seen just how powerful such a big marlin can be. I've done enough marlin fishing around the globe to know that losing fish is all part of the game, which is why I keep going back for more.

Actually tagging and releasing a marlin is one hell of an achievement when towing plastic, and it makes it all the more rewarding when you actually succeed in doing so.

Our excitement and anticipation levels remained high for the rest of the day and into the following day's trip after a magnificent meal and one too many rum cocktails that evening.

Alas, the fishing gods didn't shine on us during day three, and we returned to port just as we had on the first day. I didn't mind, though – the experience, location, and my new friends had made the whole trip just about as perfect as it could have been without releasing that marlin of a lifetime.

All too soon it was time to say our goodbyes and head back to the UK, but what an amazing experience it was, and one that I'm definitely hoping to repeat this year as we head out for round two.

There's a big blue girl out there with my name on her. Watch this space! ■

Above: A good crewman is worth his weight in gold, as Claudio demonstrates

NEED TO KNOW

To fish on Dream Catcher, skippered by To Neves, tel: 00351 965 861 261. Email: info@madeirabiggame.com Web: www.madeirabiggame.com

OTHER BOATS

There are many fishing boats out of Calheta. Here are some of the most popular:

■ Blue Makaira, Mark Rideout, tel: 07860 297415.

■ Flipper II, Andy Scott, tel: 00351 961 321 984.

■ Pesca Grossa, Frothy De Silva, tel: 00351 962 278 500.

■ Razzin Hell, Charlie Smith, tel: 00351 962 648 776.

■ Sorted, Howard Williams, tel: 07977 537584.

■ For more info on Fronteira Lures, visit: <http://fronteira-amostras.com>

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Feast or famine

There has been an explosion in numbers of small cod in the Bristol Channel. What does it mean for anglers?

THIS YEAR THE BRISTOL Channel has seen a massive invasion of one of the country's most sought-after species – cod. Not only do anglers crave the head-nodding, dogged fight of these shoaling fish, they also seek them out for culinary purposes.

Commercial activity removes hundreds of tonnes every year for human consumption throughout the country, but as far as natural predators are concerned, a mature cod does not really have any, except for the obvious attrition that Nature dictates, especially in younger fish.

In more than 40 years of charter angling in the Bristol Channel, I have never seen so many young fish. From the beginning of December 2018, both charter vessels and private boats have been taking large catches, with more than 100 fish a boat not unusual.

Sadly, most of these fish have been very small, in the 20-40cm range, with only a small percentage weighing into double figures. These small fish are thought to be hatchlings from the 2016 winter spawning.

With a cod reaching maturity at around three years, or around 40cm, it will start its cycle of reproduction in nursery areas that hold suitable food sources and natural cover. ▶





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Malcolm Bayldon on his way to yet another cod comp victory



Matchman Colin Searles with a tiny codling



Steve Chilcott with a decent codling

LARGE NUMBERS

The Bristol Channel is one such area. In fact, it is probably the largest nursery area in the whole of the British Isles. This explains why so often we will experience these large numbers of fish that could be returning to their place of hatching, or simply a different year-class emerging from somewhere else.

The female can produce huge numbers of eggs, with a 4lb fish capable of laying around two million, while an eight-pounder may produce twice as many. She lays her eggs in batches, with no more than 20 per cent laid in each. These are fertilised by the male fish, which can sometimes be one of many vying for the privilege. When fertilised, the eggs start life in the planktonic stage where they will float around on the currents in the pelagic sector, or near the surface.

It is in their first year of life, when they grow into 'real' fish of, say, two or three inches in length, that they become true demersal (bottom dwelling) fish seeking refuge in vegetation and natural ground structures. This is when they are at their most vulnerable, having to fend for themselves and decide on where their life's journey will take them.

The next stage is entirely dependent on

Nature's influences, with weather and tidal currents dictating the route that these immature fish can take. Ultimately, the fish will be drawn towards food, but again this will depend on natural factors.

MIGRATORY JOURNEY

Often we think that as we have seen a great number of small fish, like this year, they will automatically return the following year to give us fantastic sport with 3-4lb fish. This is not always the case. In fact, it rarely works this way.

The fish will leave the Bristol Channel to take on the next stage of their predetermined migratory journey which is, of course, where the food chain takes them. Whether this phenomenon of naturally following sustenance will bring the fish back to their original birthplace, or change their direction and send them to a completely different area, will always remain a mystery.

With such an abundance of these immature fish, it is difficult not to catch them when fishing for their bigger brethren and, indeed, other species. Of course, these small fish are of little value to the angler at this stage other than to add points to the cod competition tally. However, it is great to see in this world of increasing technical advancement, where commercial operators can accurately target virtually any species they want, that our favourite sea fish is doing reasonably well, at least in certain nursery areas.

Although the Bristol Channel has experienced a bonanza year for numbers of cod, the same cannot be said for other parts of the UK. Areas such as the South East of England and some parts of the South Coast have reported very low numbers of cod taken on rod and line.

Next year the tides may change the patterns and send our fish elsewhere, but one thing is for sure – our cod anglers will again be out there in force. ■

Dave Roberts is the skipper of the charter boat AlyKat, out of Minehead, Somerset. To book a trip, tel: 01643 703892 or 07764 150648. Email: alykatcharters@aol.com



Squid-tipped lugworm is ideal for small cod



Ricky Denslow is happy with this codling



Most of the cod caught in the Channel are 20-40cm

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SEA SCHOOL

21 PAGES TO MAKE YOU A BETTER ANGLER

GET INTO SHORE FISHING - PART 7

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

Follow our simple guide through your first steps into shore fishing. We'll help you to overcome any obstacles you might encounter along the way. This month we switch the focus on to preparation and planning...



THE route to a successful shore session rests solely on how well you've prepared for it. Putting the long hours in tying rigs, collecting bait and renewing shockleaders, before venturing on to the shingle, certainly has its benefits. Even the way you pack your tackle box can add value to a beach trip. Failing to plan and prepare undoubtedly

Failing to plan and prepare undoubtedly

leads to failure. Fishing is unpredictable, and mishaps are inevitable. Being able to cope with those incidents is definitely what determines a better shore angler.

TOP TIP: Preparation and planning is the key to success, so start by getting a tide book or take your copy of *Sea Angler* with you and use our tide tables.

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**When you plan
and prepare, the
bites will come**



SEA SCHOOL

TOP ADVICE TO MAKE YOU A BETTER ANGLER



Preparation and organisation are key to success



START AT HOME

So, where does your planning and preparation actually begin? It will always start at home and there are multiple factors to consider, including venue choice, weather and tides.

After you've decided on a venue, you need to check the height and times of the tides. If the most productive time is around high water, it's no good turning up an hour before. Not only will finding a space to fish be tough, but, by the time you've set up, it's a good bet you'll have probably missed the prime time.

Every shore angler should have a current tide book – if you don't, make it your business to source one. They don't cost a lot and can be bought from port authorities, harbourmasters and tackle shops. Even local angling clubs may sell them.

Always keep an eye on the weather and never rely on just a single forecast. Constantly checking weather updates and bulletins on the TV is vitally important, especially wind direction. An onshore gale is probably going to kill any plans to venture to an unsheltered spot.

On occasions, I've known anglers to drive to a mark where the road to the beach is steep. While they fished, it snowed heavily, putting the road out of use. When they returned to their vehicle, they were stuck.

TOP TIP: Don't weigh yourself down by carrying too much weight

EFFORT AND CARE

If you simply dumped all your gear in the garage or shed after your last trip, don't expect it to be in good shape if you just left it unattended. A little effort and care of your kit goes a long way in helping to prepare for your next outing.

After each session, simply rinse your reel under a lukewarm running tap to wash

away any salt and grit. Furthermore, always loosen the drag to prevent the drag washers from seizing.

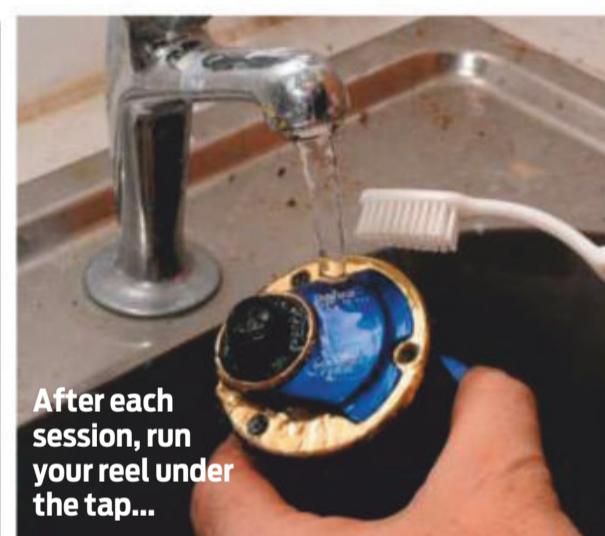
A good tip is to always renew shockleaders on reels, too. A lengthy shore session can (and probably will) damage a shockleader.

Preparing a healthy stash of rigs at home is a sure way to keep a beach session running smoothly. Surprise crack-offs and snags can mean lost rigs, so don't waste time tying them on the beach.

One mistake shore anglers make is so stuff a seatbox to the brim, especially with lead weights. I like to base my session on four casts per hour, so, if I'm unlucky enough to lose a sinker each cast, during a five-hour trip I'll need 20 lead weights to see me through. However, it's highly unlikely I will lose all of them, and so 10 sinkers should be enough.

Just take items that you will need, such as a spare rod and reel, a headlight if fishing into dark, a rig wallet filled with spare rigs, mono mainline and shockleaders.

TOP TIP: Pin a checklist to your shed or tackle room door so you don't forget vital items



...and don't forget to loosen the drag



SATISFYING FULFILMENT

If you're collecting bait prior to a shore session, always do your best to store it safely. Frozen baits such as squid or mackerel should be carried in a decent coolbag or box with ice packs. A layer of dry newspaper over the top of them means you can place packets of worms in there too.

Prime bait in top condition is a main catalyst to success. Simple planning and preparation before a trip only adds to the enjoyment and the satisfying fulfilment you'll feel when a shore session goes well.

NEXT MONTH: The focus is on casting.

Words by John Holden

In association with



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MAGIC WEAPON

Remember the advertising jingle “Now hands that do dishes can feel soft as your face with mild green Fairy Liquid”? Well, forget the dishes, think reel maintenance...



USED TO SPEND HOURS CLEANING AND oiling until it dawned on me that what I did turned reels into muck magnets. I might just as well have coated the reels with glue, inside and out. I ignored the golden rule of lubrication as well: apply a little bit into exactly the right spots.

What with the reel as sticky as fly paper and oil soaking the entire mechanism, no wonder sandy debris piled up and was hard to shift.

It only takes a few hours for saltwater to emulsify lubricants into a gritty ball of sludge that grinds away components and resists all but a vicious solvent cleaner.

I really didn't like using the organic solvents that the experts recommended. The fumes not only stank, but sometimes made me dizzy. Even worse, many of the popular chemicals turned out to be carcinogenic as well. When aluminium and synthetic materials took over from chromed brass, I'd also noticed that some organic cleaners

and lubricants attacked plastic reel components such as seals and cogs.

WAR ON DIRT

These days, my magic weapons in the war against dirt and corrosion are Fairy Liquid, microfibre cloths and mineral oil, otherwise called liquid paraffin. A cheap 250ml bottle will last a lifetime. Cleaning begins with sluicing the outside of the reel with a cloth soaked in hot Fairy suds. After rinsing the cloth in hot water and wringing it out, I wipe the reel and leave it to dry.

The final step is to polish with a microfibre cloth impregnated with the mineral oil. This cloth is prepared by dribbling about half a tablespoonful of oil over it, then scrunching it up until the oil spreads evenly. One dose lasts about six months.

The oil wicks into the fibres leaving them slightly waxy so that the cloth leaves nothing more

than a haze of oil on the reel. This tiny coating is more than enough to repel water and prevent corrosion. It lubricates nicely as well.

I give the reel's innards the Fairy treatment now and again, but since there's nothing sticky in there to attract serious dirt, routinely it's enough to wipe over with a cloth slightly dampened with Fairy suds, then a dry one, then the mineral oil to finish off.

Lubrication is almost a non-event, though the reels perform every bit as well as they did when I went overboard with fancy oils and additives. Multiplier spool bearings get a drop of light machine oil or standard Rocket Fuel. Anything with teeth – CT main and pinion gears especially – ball races, roller bearings and similarly stressed components have a lick of lithium or molybdenum grease applied with a small but stiff artist's paint brush. Fixed-spool reels get similar treatment.

Oil and grease are strictly limited to the parts that really need them. Everywhere else that metal rubs against metal, such as the gear lever and ratchet pawl, receives the mineral oil treatment alone. One wipe of the cloth delivers enough lubrication. ■



KNOW YOUR SPECIALIST RIGS

SOFT PLASTICS

How to rig a soft plastic with a weighted hook

THERE are numerous soft plastic lures now available in tackle shops, and using them is simple when rigged with a weighted hook.

By ensuring the hook point sits parallel to the body or just inside the lure, you can avoid snagging on the likes of weed, hence the term 'fishing weedless'.

Here, the diagram shows a soft needle lure (the 110mm, 11g Pirate Lures Baby Treats), developed for early-season, shallow-reef bass fishing, being hooked on a size 5/0 weighted worm hook attached to a 0.30mm fluorocarbon leader using an size 8 HTO lure link. Its aerodynamic shape and weight gives the lure excellent casting properties.

Pirate Lures: www.piratelures.com

STEP BY STEP

1 The hook eye should exit the blunt end and the curve should be level with the middle of the lure.

2 Insert the hook eye into the lure and out of the blunt end.

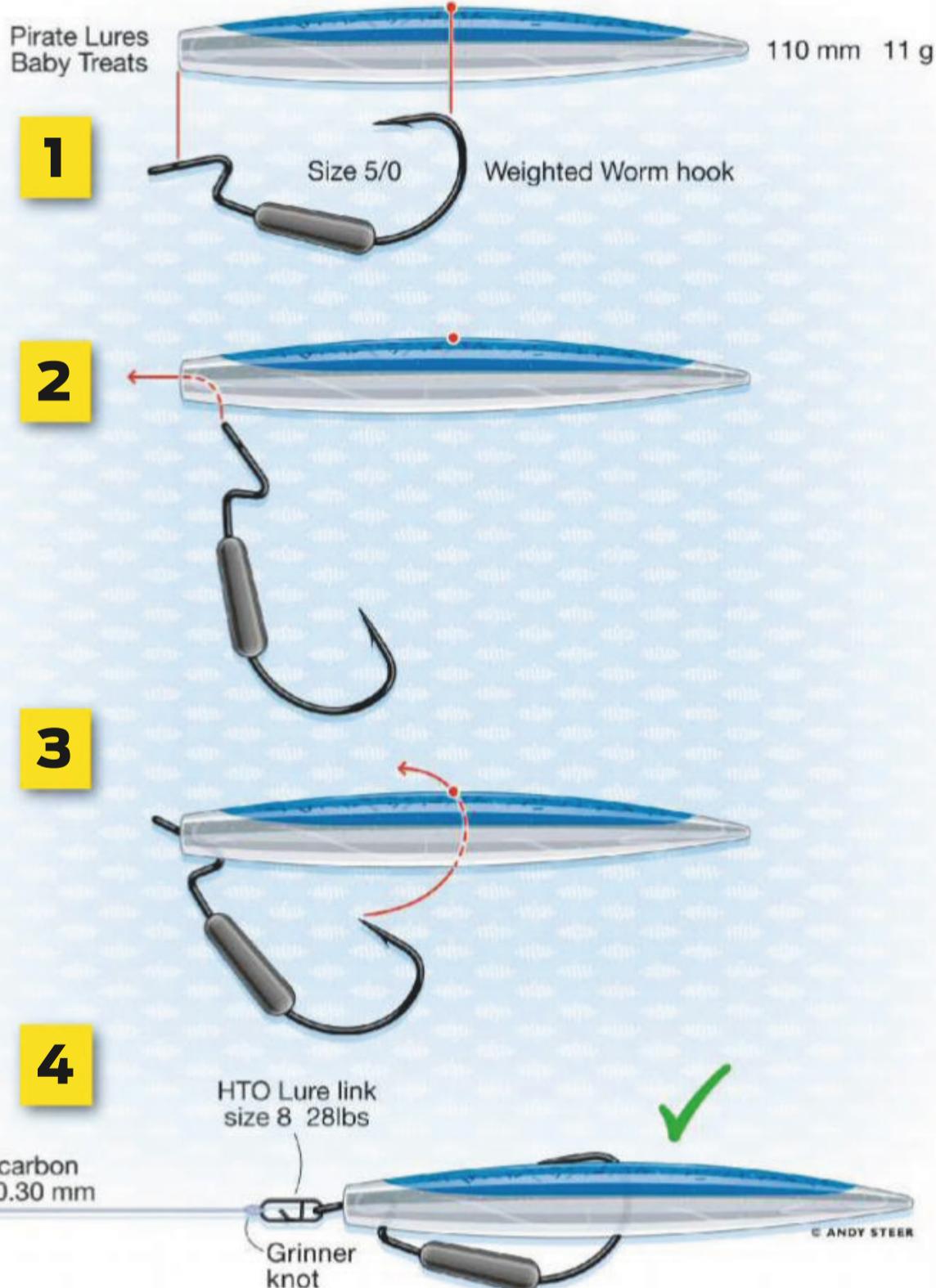
3 Insert hook point into the lower middle of lure and out at the top.

4 The hook point sits flush to the lure body or just inside it.

The printed edition of 'Light Rock Fishing - Hard Rock Fishing Knots & Rigs' is now available at <http://amzn.eu/d/ctqSCI1>

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Bait storage made easy

Vac pack for freshness, longevity and better results...



Seal end of bag
properly in the
vac seal slot

MY LOCAL patch is not blessed with masses of natural bait, but any I do collect needs careful storage to maximise its freshness and longevity. We all have little tricks to preserve our bait, but one thing that has been forgotten, or seems to be little written about these days, is home vacuum packing.

I was using this method back in the 1990s (so last century!), but somehow got out of the habit. A recent discovery of a decent amount of squid in 1lb boxes with bad freezer burn prompted me to have a rethink.

Some research online resulted in the purchase of a Razzori E5200 food grade vacuum sealer that set me back a bit under £30, and I bought some extra vacuum bag

rolls on top. The whole lot was under £40, so not excessive.

Therefore, if you have issues getting bait locally, or just want a ready supply in the freezer, then vac packing for freshness and longevity is the way to go.

Here, then, is how I deal with some of the main baits...

BLACK LUG

With winter upon us, its purchase was timely and deliberate, because I was about to buy in some black lug. These are typically supplied in wraps of newspaper, which is fine for short-term storage, mostly a day or two in the fridge, but not for longer-term freezer storage. The newspaper and the air in the freezer gradually draw out the moisture in

the worms and induce freezer burn if there is any direct air contact. If there are ice crystals on the bait, then it's a sure sign of potential freezer burn.

If you either dig or buy black lug, here's my way of vacuum preserving it after it is gutted. I use a large, flat surface, usually a table or a freezer top, and put down an old towel, which prevents any bits of loose sand getting on the top, gives good grip and stops the cling film sticking to the work surface.

The roll of cling film should ideally be in a proper dispenser that allows easy controlled removal and cuts the cling film cleanly.

Pull a good length of cling film off the roll and on to the towel. Don't cut the dispenser end yet. Now unroll the paper wraps of worm and lay each worm individually on the cling



film about 2½ inches apart so they cannot touch. When all the worms are in place, roll up the cling film from the cut end, making sure none of the worms are touching and that you expel as much of the air as possible.

Leave about six inches of cling film after the last worm, cut this off, turn in the corner of the cling film where the ends of the worms are, then roll the rest of the cling film around the package to form a closed sausage shape. Make sure the ends are turned in and sealed off. If you don't, the blood from the worms can seep out during the vacuum process and stop the bag from sealing and, worse, stop the vacuum packer from working.

Next step is the fun bit. Seal off the open end of the vacuum sealer roll. Measure off what you need to fit the worm wrap into the

vacuum roll, leaving about four inches of roll, and cut off. Put the worms in the bag, place the open end in the vacuum sealer, making sure the open edge fits properly in the sealing cavity, and press the Vac/Seal button.

You'll see the air suck out of the vac bag and seal it. This leaves the worms fully protected from any air access, and they are in a durable package for freezing and fishing transportation.

OTHER BAIT

■ SANDEELS: These can be stored in just the same way. In fact, I use the cling film system for most of my baits when vac packing. I prefer the sandeels individually wrapped in the cling film to keep them separate because this helps presentation when thawed.

■ PEELER CRABS: Kill any live crabs first. Take off all the legs and claws and put these in a separate bag. Now take off the shell from the crab's back, sides and belly to leave just the body meat. Remove all the gills (dead man's fingers), rinse the body under a tap briefly to remove any bacteria from the gills, and leave the crab on kitchen towel just for a few minutes to drain off any excess water.

Now seal as an individual crab in cling film, again making sure no juice can be pulled through the ends during the vacuum process. I then place the crabs in half-dozens in the vacuum roll bag and vac and seal.

■ RAZORFISH: I wrap these individually in the cling film, then vac pack in packs of six. The cling film eliminates any chance of the

SEA SCHOOL

EASY WAYS TO BOOST YOUR ANGLING SKILLS



sharp shell piercing the vac bag when the pack is in the freezer

■ **MUSSELS:** Take the mussels out of their shells and put them in sixes in cling film. Seal the cling film with plenty of over-wraps so no juice can be sucked out, then vac pack them, putting about six packs in the one bag.

■ **SQUID:** Wrap individually in cling film, then put in threes and vac pack. If you vac pack the squid without the cling film, freeze them first overnight on a metal tray in the freezer, then put them in the vac bag fully frozen and seal to avoid any juice and sealing issues.

■ **MACKEREL:** A mackerel-bashing session in the summer means you can freeze a few down in preparation for the colder months. Obviously, the mackerel need to be as fresh as possible for freezing, so take a cool box with you and keep the fish either on ice or with two or three ice packs.

At home, I lightly rinse the whole fish without gutting. Lay them on kitchen towel to drain a little, cut off the tail fin, then tightly wrap them individually in cling film. Put two mackerel in a vac pack, which is ideal for a short session, or you can take multiple packs for longer sessions.

You don't really need to use cling film on the mackerel, but I prefer to because it means the mackerel do not stick together during the freezing process and are easier to handle



MIKE'S TOP TIPS

■ Contrary to what some others say, I don't find zip bags good enough for long-term storage of bait. It's hard to get all the air out, the zips all too often fail, and they can leak at the zip too during the early freezing process.

■ Having the ability to vac pack offers other bonuses. Fresh, unused bait at the end of a session can be brought home and frozen down for future use. This saves money and helps preserve future bait stocks by minimising waste.

■ The other big bonus is that any eating fish you bring home can be vac packed for freshness and frozen too. Once filleted, I just drain off any moisture first, but then cut the bag a bit longer than I need as this avoids any juice in the fish being drawn out and coming into direct contact with the vac sealing unit. Any really juicy cuts I wrap in the cling film first.

■ Experts reckon fish is safe to eat if properly frozen for up to two years and probably longer. I've used vac packed bait that's been older than has still looked and felt fresh after thawing, and has caught me good numbers of fish.

I try to have a lifetime maximum of about a year and therefore buy in any bulk bait about three times a year to ensure freshness and to give me regular turnover of my stock.

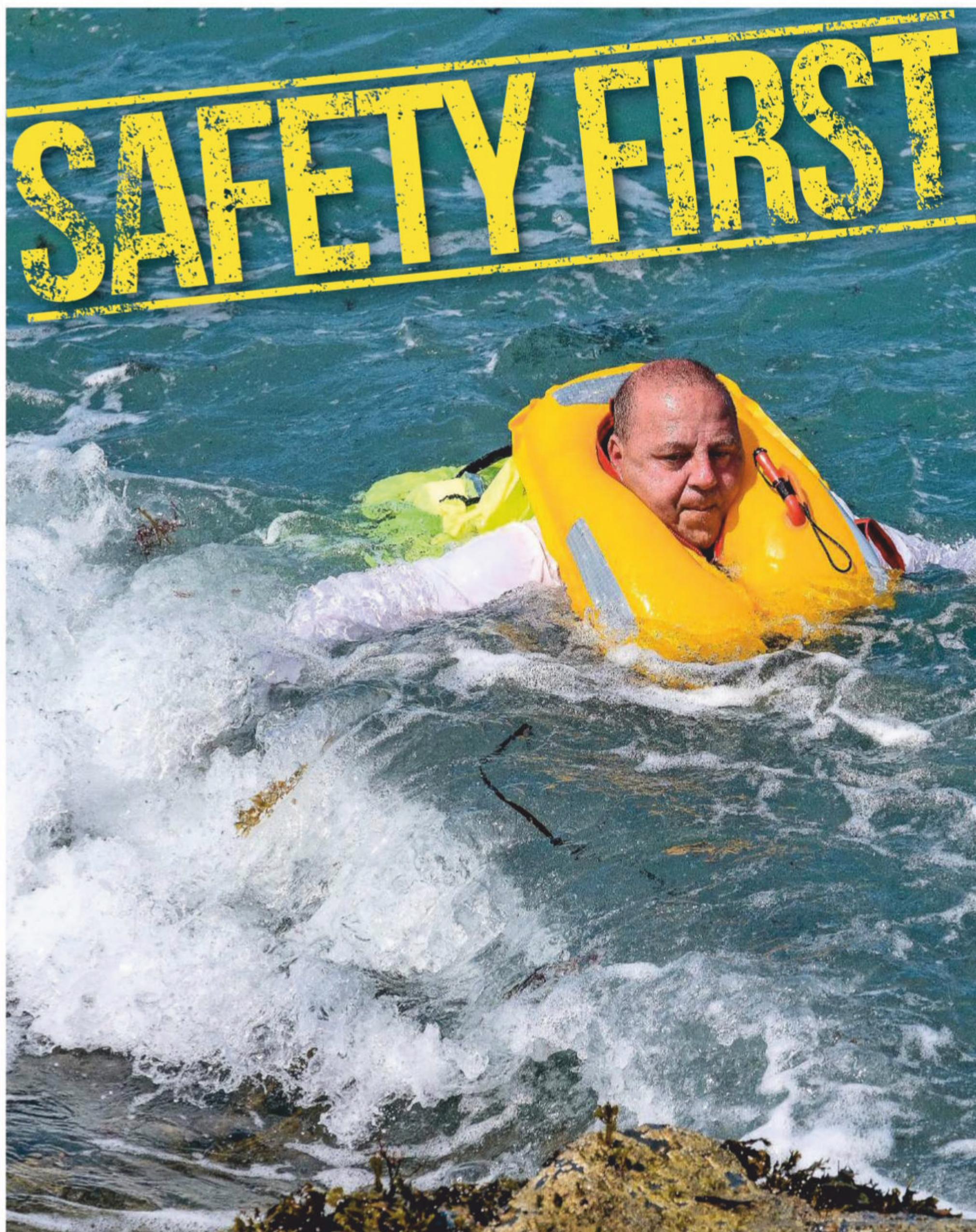
Write the date on all bait packages. ■



SEA SCHOOL

DON'T TAKE RISKS – BE SAFE NEAR THE SEA

Words and photography
by Henry Gilbey



Why you have to be wearing a lifejacket for your shore-based lure fishing

FYOU are anything like me, then you can't stand being told what to do, and the term health and safety annoys the hell out of you. Fishing is what we do, and by virtue of this, we often put ourselves in harm's way. Because the sea is part and parcel of our fishing, what can we do about this other than accept the risks and rewards?

It doesn't have to be like this. What if we didn't stop what we so love doing and, for not very much money, we could give ourselves the best possible chance of survival if something were to go badly wrong? Be honest, here, we are a stubborn bunch. Trouble never happens to us, does it?

We have all heard tragic stories over the years about shore anglers who have died because they ended up in the water and subsequently drowned. After two deaths in September 2017, I decided that enough was enough and I had to explore how I could make my own shore fishing as safe as possible and then try to spread the word.

I've been working with the RNLI ever since, and I am learning all the time about how, with minimal expense and zero inconvenience, we can give ourselves the best possible chance of survival if things go badly wrong.

SIMPLE TRUTH

I am not trying to tell you what to do, and I have not gone all health and safety on you. I still carry on fishing the same way, and I am not about to change that. Lure fishing for bass has been my thing for a number of years, but I have chosen to stop burying my head in the sand, and quit ignoring what can so easily happen.

I asked the right people for the right information. The simple and unavoidable truth is that wearing a not very expensive and very easy to wear auto-inflate lifejacket is going to massively help you if you end up in the water.

When I was bait fishing all the time I would often be perched on some rocks way above the sea and generally out of harm's way, but

lure fishing requires us to be as close to the sea as possible.

As lure fishing for bass seems to grow more popular, I would argue that the single biggest danger is swell, and too many anglers not understanding it. Take a lure angler from, say, Sussex, who either fishes flat-calm conditions or, when it's rough, you've got constant waves coming at you that are at least fairly predictable. Now, if that same lure angler goes to the north coast of Cornwall, there will be some serious waves and a great big rise and fall, which is swell, that he or she may never come across before.

If you've not experienced these conditions, and suddenly there's a wall of water coming at you, what do you do if you end up in the sea, fighting to stay afloat?

To keep things as accessible as possible, let's look at the most useful piece of fishing safety equipment you could ever buy – a lifejacket. By that I mean a minimum 150N (N is newtons of buoyancy) auto-inflate version that will automatically inflate if you end up in the water.

Why auto-inflate? Imagine you hit your head or the water is horribly cold and you suddenly suffer from cold-water shock and a dose of panic. An auto-inflate lifejacket will turn you the right way so that your head is out of the water and your airways are clear. It will keep you afloat as well. Even when wearing what I would wear for lure fishing in Cornwall in winter, a 150N+ lifejacket easily keeps me afloat. There is also always a manual pull-cord to inflate the lifejacket if needs be.

EASE OF USE

Now, there is no way that I'd wear a lifejacket if it got in the way and annoyed me. Indeed, I had wrongly assumed from having to wear some old-style lifejackets that this might be the case. How wrong I was. A modern 150N to, say, 180N auto-inflate lifejacket could not be any easier or less cumbersome to wear.

As it's the one thing on you that needs to be unimpeded, you need to put it on last ▶

Lure fishing requires us to be as close to the sea as possible



SEA SCHOOL

DON'T TAKE RISKS – BE SAFE NEAR THE SEA

and make sure that if it were to inflate, that you have put no lure bag or rucksack straps over the top of it.

Granted, it takes a bit of getting used to, but as with anything, putting it on last becomes second nature, and I defy any angler to find wearing one remotely annoying.

If you are going to wear a lifejacket, make sure it has what is called a crotch-strap on it. This is a simple strap that goes from the back of the lifejacket, through your legs, up your front, and then secures to the front of the lifejacket. When a lifejacket inflates it happens very quickly and quite forcefully, and the RNLI has done various studies that have shown that a jacket that has no crotch strap can end up blowing up and over your head when it inflates. This means the jacket is no longer on you and is not keeping your head up and out of the water. So, I would only buy and use one that came with a crotch strap..

There is a lot more we can talk about in the future, but initially I would implore you to think about your fishing and how you can give yourself the best possible chance at surviving if something goes wrong and you end up in the water.

There are no guarantees from wearing a lifejacket, but it's a fact that it is going to help keep you afloat for a lot longer than if you aren't wearing one.

I have not even gone into how waders affect things, how cold-water shock has such a big impact, and how we can plan with our fishing mates about what to do if one of us ends up in the water.

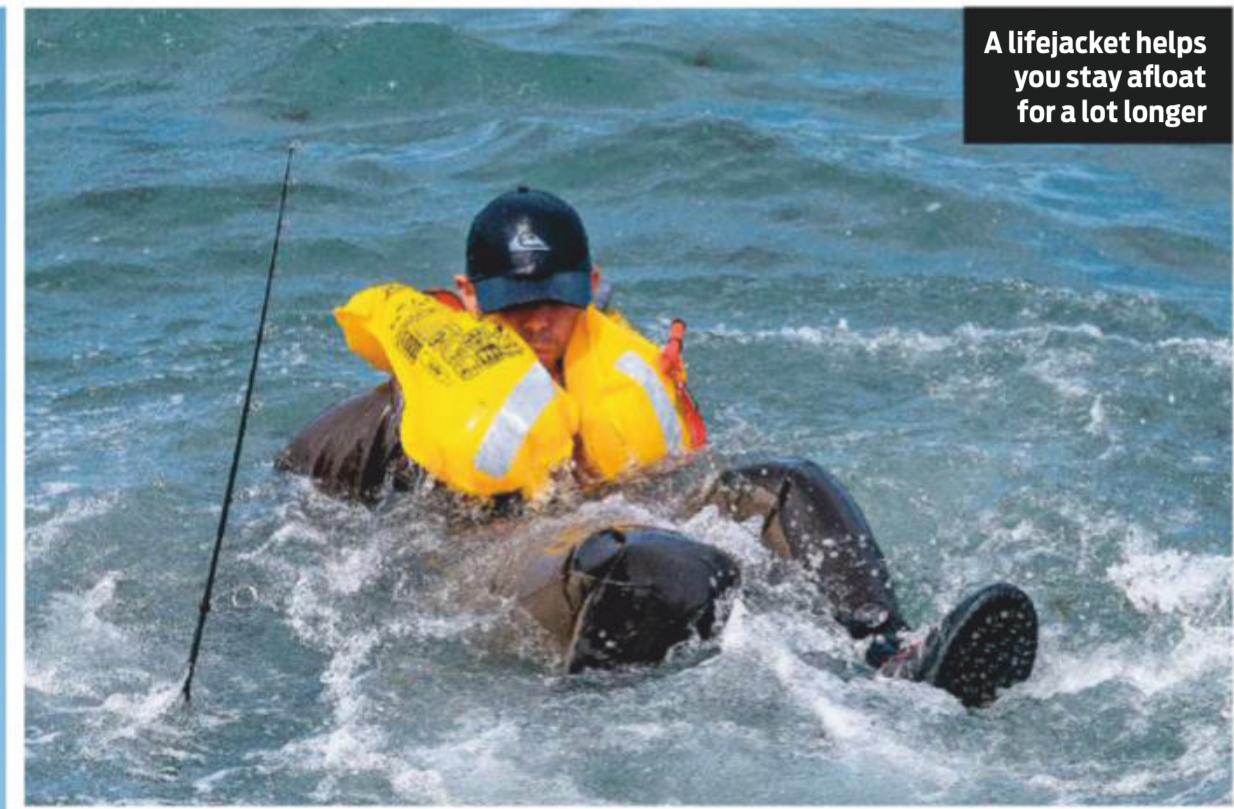
I would implore you at the very least to buy an auto-inflate lifejacket – which is going to cost far less than what many of us would spend on a spinning reel or lure fishing rod – and then wear it.



Wearing a lifejacket is not remotely annoying

If a wall of water comes at you, you'll be glad you've got a lifejacket on





A lifejacket helps you stay afloat for a lot longer



A lure angler wearing a Crewsaver Crewfit 180 Newton lifejacket

HENRY'S SUGGESTIONS

I recommend these auto-inflate lifejackets for your lure fishing. I have worn them myself for fishing, also in the RNLI test tank, and on the open coast for some filming work with the RNLI:

- Spinlock Deckvest Lite (below)
- Crewsaver Crewfit 165N Sport
- Crewsaver Crewfit 180N Pro (above)

I can find these lifejackets for £100 and less online. They come fully armed and ready to use.



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OUR EXPERTS SOLVE YOUR FISHING PROBLEMS

HOW TO ASK A QUESTION

Write to: Q&A, Sea Angler, Media House, Lynchwood Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6EA

Email: cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk

Online: www.facebook.com/seaanglermag

Q&A

SHORE FISHING

ASK THE EXPERTS

WHEN SENDING YOUR QUESTION, PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS



PAUL FENECH

Sea Angler's features and tackle editor Paul is here to solve your shore angling problems.



DAVE LEWIS

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.



MARK CRAME

Suffolk-based Mark gets a thrill from fishing afloat on a kayak. Send him your kayaking queries.



HENRY GILBEY

Angler and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, will answer questions on lure angling.



ADAM KIRBY & DAN SISSONS

The Portsmouth-based duo fish ultra-light from shore and boat. They'll provide answers on light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic where size of fish is secondary to the fun of catching them.



Q: Can I use a reel loaded with braided mainline with a stiff beach rod, or would mono be better?

DAVE RICHARDSON, SUNDERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR

PF says: There are many anglers who prefer to use a powerful beach rod coupled with a fixed-spool reel loaded with braid. They are achieving incredible distances with this type of set-up, too.

I'd advise using a mono shockleader (braid is not a shockleader) and wear a casting glove or leather fingerstall for protection.



Q: I want to start making my own lead weights. How do I start, and is it expensive?

OLIVER VALLIS, SALTDEAN, E SUSSEX

PF says: First of all, unless you know what you're doing, moulding your own lead weights can be incredibly dangerous.

In addition to that, molten lead can be

extremely explosive if handled incorrectly.

There are various kits available that you can buy, and it may be a good idea to take a look at the Gemini Tackle website at: www.gemini-tackle.co.uk

You will also need protective equipment such as gloves, boots and goggles. I would suggest contacting your local angling club or tackle dealer and enquiring if someone experienced can possibly help you.

Q: How important is the state of a tide when targeting different species, please?

JIM FORD, BY EMAIL

PF says: Many species of fish depend on the tide to provide much of the food they eat. A running tide sparks fish into feeding, while a tide that has slowed, or stopped (often referred to as standing) will generally mean fish stop feeding.

Hence the reason for fewer bites during a standing tide.

Many marks will fish differently, some are more productive on the flood, while other marks will offer better prospects on an ebbing tide.



Q: I find it difficult to distinguish bites when there is a wind and weed on my mainline. What do you suggest I should do?

JOE HOWARD, ST LEONARDS, E SUSSEX

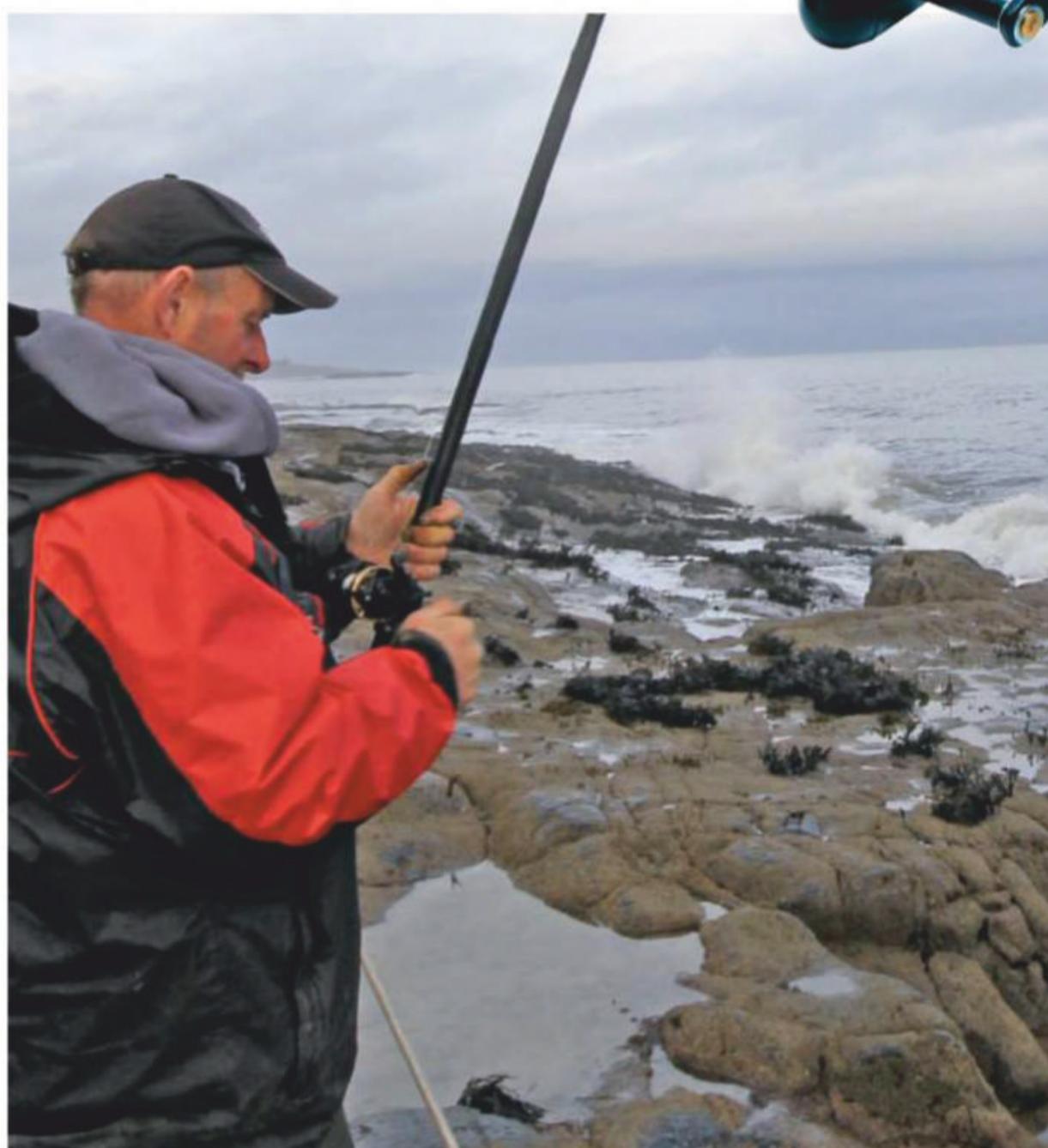
PF says: If there is weed present in the sea, try to keep as much mainline out of the water as possible by raising the rod tip higher in the tripod. If your rod tip is bouncing around in the wind, together with a strong tide, there is a solution.

Try and evaluate the rhythm as the tip pulls and bounces, as it should be constant throughout. Anything different, or out of rhythm, such as a hard pull-down or slack line, will generally be a bite.



SEA SCHOOL

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Q: I have a Daiwa SL30SH multiplier equipped with centrifugal brakes. I've fitted the largest brake blocks but I'm struggling with overruns, even when thumbing the spool. Shouldn't the brakes be sufficient to slow the reel down?

MICHAEL WOOD, CUMBRIA

PF says: I passed your question to Sea Angler's casting expert John Holden to see if he could shed some light on your problem.

"If you are suffering overruns at the end of the cast, it's all a matter of timing when to stop the spool. Until you get used to the reel, it will be more docile loaded no more than threequarters full with minimum 0.40mm mainline – the thinner the line, the lower the level.

"If your rod is compatible with the reel you are using, and you use at least a 5oz lead weight, with two large brake blocks fitted, your overruns could be caused by casting technique."

Q: I'm finding it difficult to keep my lugworms in prime condition. What is the best way to store them, how long can I keep them alive, and is it better to keep them in a fridge?

DAVE BUNCE, GRIMSBY, NE LINCS

PF says: Variants of lugworms such as blow, black and yellowtail, can all be kept in prime condition and yes, you'll need a fridge.



Yellowtail and blow lug are best stored in cat litter trays, with just a few millimetres of seawater covering them. Gutted black lug should be wrapped in newspaper, in multiples of 10 depending on size.

Additionally, it's a good tip to keep a two-litre bottle of sea water in the same

fridge, so that when you need to change the water in the trays, you have it at exactly the same temperature.

Remember to remove any worms that may have died. Your lugworms should stay alive and in prime condition for longer if stored this way.

SEA SCHOOL

OUR EXPERTS SOLVE YOUR FISHING PROBLEMS

Q&A

LRF

Q: With Isome worms, does it ruin the action if you break bits off?

COLIN MULBERRY, FIFE, SCOTLAND

AK & DS say: The genius of both Marukyu and Gulp! Sandworm imitations is the scent and, to a lesser degree, the detailed moulding.

While both will work as a static bait, it's the action that you impart to the worm that gets the fish interested.

Whether that's twitching a complete Isome worm on a drop shot rig, or flicking a section of worm on a small jighead, the design does very little. No need to worry about ruining them.



Q: If you could choose only one lure for LRF, what would it be?

GORDON EVES, TRURO, CORNWALL

AK & DS say: In terms of sheer numbers of fish, go for a small 1in or 1½in shad. As long as the tail swims freely on the drop, the lure is normally a success. Forced to choose only one colour it would be white, because it seems to work equally well in both clear and murky conditions.



Q: I seem to be taking more and more lures with me for light rock fishing. How do you know what to leave behind?

JONNY PEARSON. BY EMAIL

AK & DS say: We know the paranoia of worrying about having the right lure. The first thing is to determine, sometimes through intuition and sometimes by asking around, the water conditions before leaving home.

You can choose your lures accordingly. If it's clear, you can leave bright colours at home. If it's murky, you can leave natural colours behind. Doing that saves unnecessary weight.

If you are feeling brave, how about taking a pocket-size storage box and limiting yourself to what it can hold. Set yourself a challenge by perhaps one day trying a single colour of lure in a few shapes and sizes, or a single lure style in a handful of different colours.

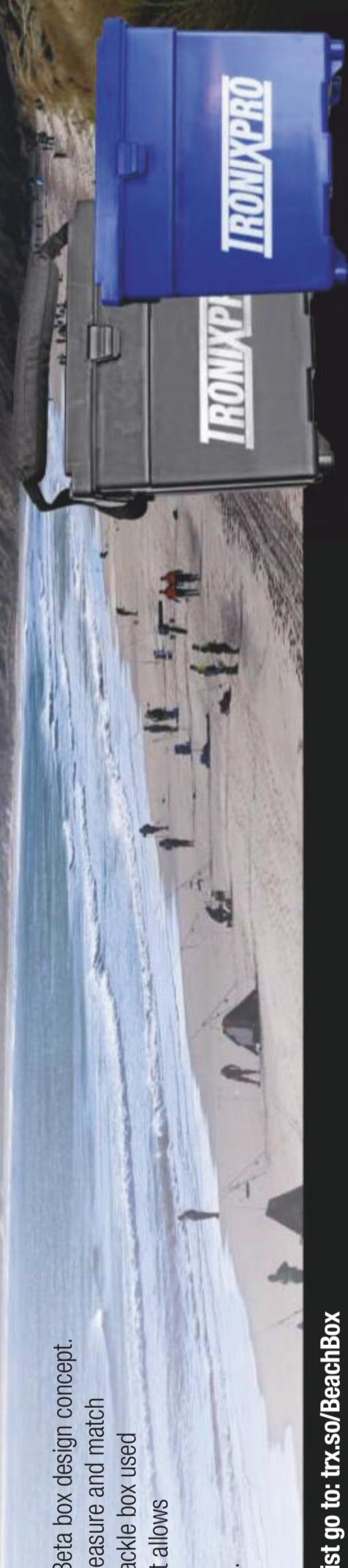


Q: Can you please tell me when you would use different styles of drop shot leads?

OWEN MEADOWS. BY EMAIL

AK & DS say: Search hard enough and you'll discover all manner of different-shaped drop shot weights. We have some shaped like mini hand grenades.

The two most common designs are column and ball. The long, thin column type definitely has the edge in snaggy areas because it is least likely to get stuck in a crevice. Switch to a ball or pear-shaped weight when you need to determine the make-up of the seabed. This shape better delivers feedback up the braid when searching around for rock or sand patches.



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RRP: 44.99 / Side Tray RRP: 7.99

For more information and to find your nearest stockist go to: trx.so/BeachBox

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Q&A

LURE ANGLING

Q: Could you suggest a pair of chest waders suitable for rough conditions that cost less than £100?

JAMES VALLIS, BRIGHTON, EAST SUSSEX

HG says: A year ago I'd have said yes, but with what I know now through testing with the RNLI, I am going to say no. Cheaper waders tend to be boot-footed rubber ones, and they are lethal if you end up in the sea.

Buy an auto-inflate lifejacket instead, and save up for breathable waist waders that you wear with separate boots – not perfect, but a whole lot better than your options for under £100.



Q: Do you prefer surface lures with a rattle in them?

JOHN HARRISON, ABERDEEN

HG says: Nearly all my surface lures make some kind of rattling noise when I work them across the top.

I love the idea of the smaller and silent surface lures for calmer conditions, but more often than not I turn to soft plastics when it's like this.



Q: I prefer to tie my trace directly on to a lure instead of using a lure clip. Are there any benefits or disadvantages to doing this?

JACK BEESLEY, PENZANCE, CORNWALL

HG says: There is always the argument that tying directly to a lure and not using a lure clip helps with the natural movement of the lure. This is big in fly-fishing, of course, but I would argue that with the lures we use combined with a lightweight lure clip, such as the Breakaway Mini Link, all is working just fine. For me, it's very much a convenience thing.



Q: Other than weedless, jig head and weighted hooks, what are the best hooks to use with unweighted soft lures and jellyworms?

PHIL LITTLER, BY EMAIL

HG says: Check out Andy Steer's diagram on page 76.

However, my favourite when fishing with soft plastics rigged weedless and weightless is a specialist weedless hook with one of those hitchhikers attached. You screw this into the front of the lure and then put the hookpoint through the lure further down the body. Without a doubt, these hooks help a soft plastic lure last far longer than on a conventional weedless hook.



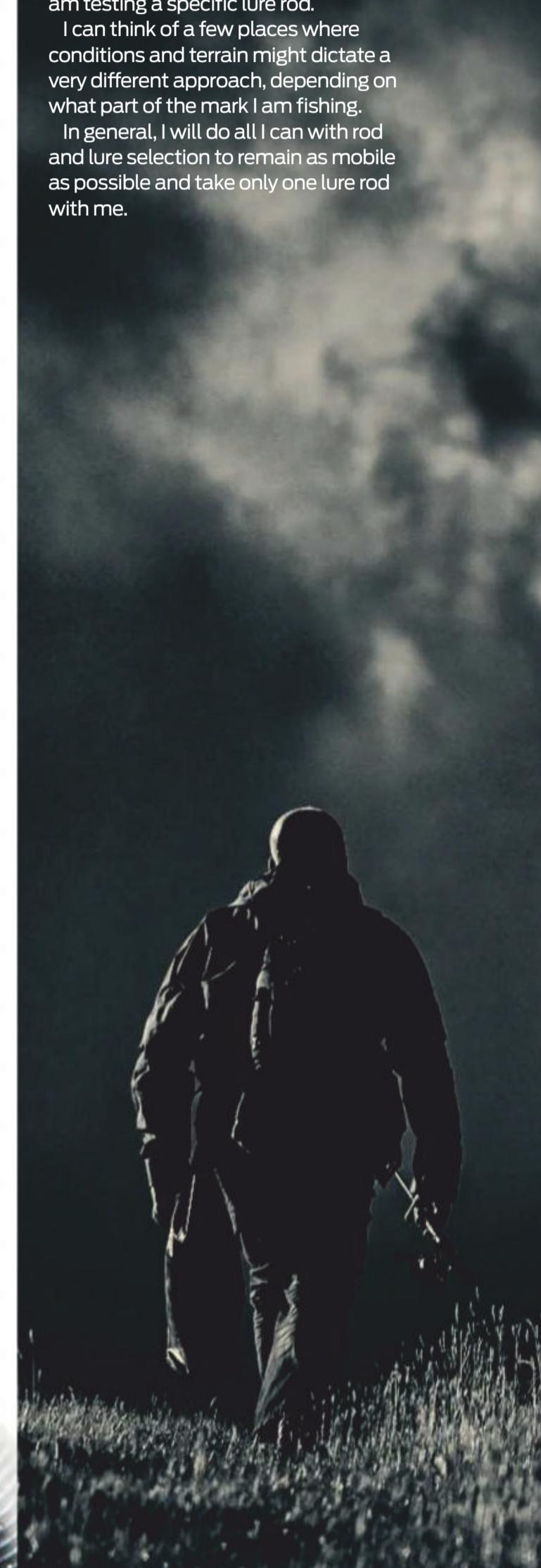
Q: Would you ever take two lure rods with you for bass fishing?

MARK BAINES, HEREFORD

HG says: Very rarely, and it's usually if I am testing a specific lure rod.

I can think of a few places where conditions and terrain might dictate a very different approach, depending on what part of the mark I am fishing.

In general, I will do all I can with rod and lure selection to remain as mobile as possible and take only one lure rod with me.





Q: Are fluorescent lures just a gimmick or do they actually work?

ADRIAN EVANS, PAIGNTON, DEVON

HG says: They don't do it for me, not at night. I have no proof to back this up, but I know of too many good lure anglers who swear that a fluorescent lure all lit up at night actively puts off bass.

I err towards white lures at night and they work really well for me. We do all we can to keep lights off the water, so I can't really see the logic behind using a lure that lights up in the water.



Q: Do you wade much at night when you are lure fishing?

KARL GIBBS, SOUTHAMPTON

HG says: It depends on where I am fishing, but for the most part I try to stay out of the water as much as possible.

It's amazing how close in bass can come at night. I dread to think how many times I have spooked feeding fish when I've gone wading in and not thought about things. We sometimes need to get in the water, but I would urge you to do so as little as you can.



Q&A

BOAT ANGLING

Q: There is a metal plate fitted to my boat that gives the maximum size engine, the number of people the boat is designed for, plus the letter 'D'. What does the letter mean?

JAMES STEVENS, HULL, EAST YORKS

DL says: The Letter denotes the sort of area in which your boat is designed to be used. D is classified as sheltered waters, including lakes and rivers, where winds up to Force 4 along with wave heights up to 0.5 metres may be experienced. Most private sea angling boats are rated Category C, inshore.

You can find more information online if you Google Boat CE Regulations.



Q: I often read of using baited feathers, but why can I rarely find feathers in tackle shops?

ED MILLIGAN, EYE, SUFFOLK

DL says: Years ago, strings of up to six white or coloured feathers were typically used to catch mackerel and pollack, along with many other species if the hooks were tipped with a small piece of bait.

Today, most shops stock a huge range of artificial lure rigs, which have almost completely replaced natural feathers, but can be fished in exactly the same way.



Q: You often mention 'inboard freeboard' in your boat reviews. What is this, and can it be increased to further enhance onboard safety?

TIM COE, BY EMAIL

DL says: Freeboard is basically the height of a boat's gunnels within the fishing cockpit.

I consider just above knee height as being adequate, but higher is better.

Onboard safety can be improved with the addition of rails fitted atop the gunnels.

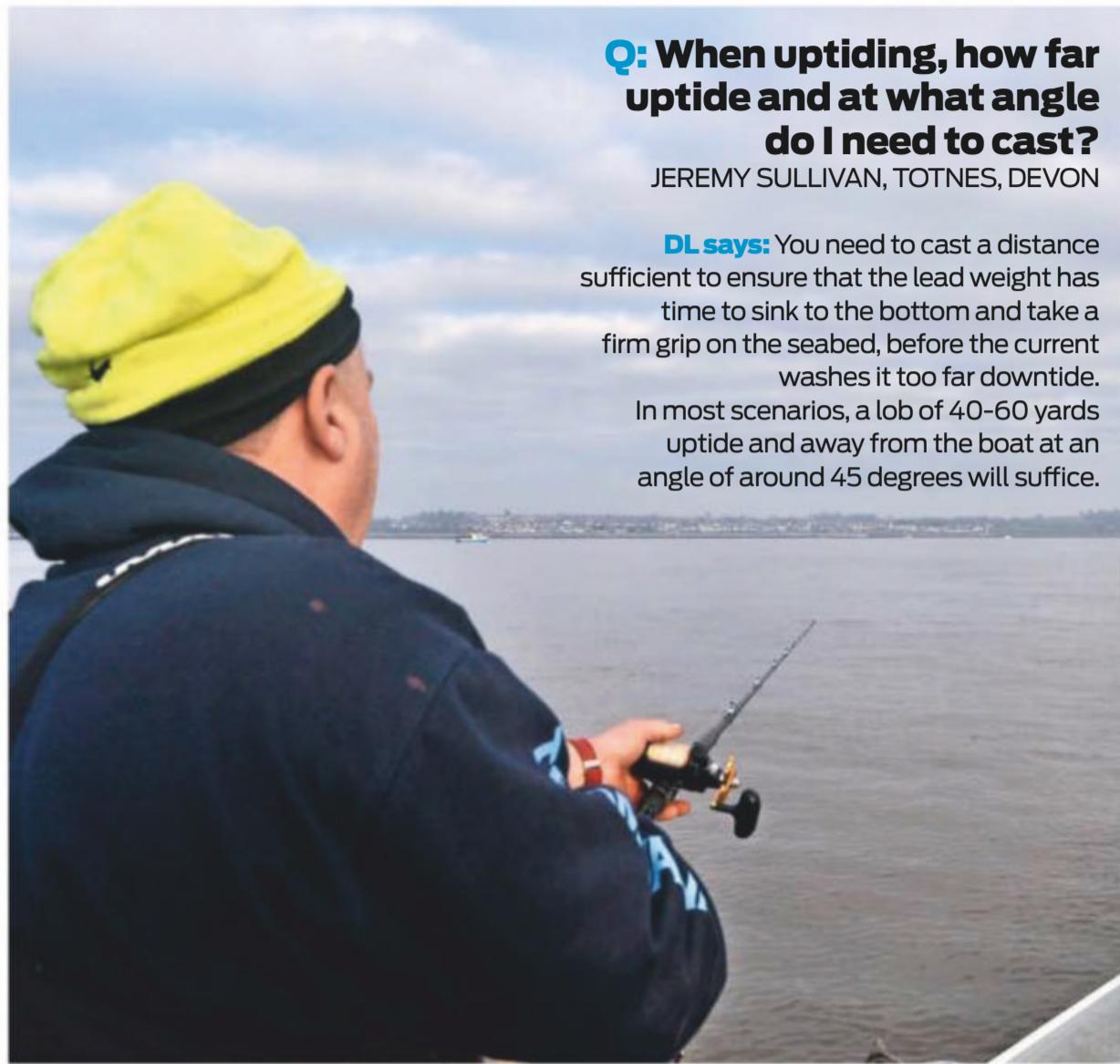
Q: Is it best to hold a rod or leave it in a rod-rest when boat fishing?

JO HATT, BY EMAIL

DL says: Standard practice when uptiding is to leave the rod in a holder and watch the tip for bites, as shown, to ensure fish have the time to properly eat a bait before attempting to hook them.

When you are downtiding, you can hold the rod because the line runs directly from the rod tip down to the bait, but you can, of course, also leave it in a holder.





Q: When uptiding, how far up tide and at what angle do I need to cast?

JEREMY SULLIVAN, TOTNES, DEVON

DL says: You need to cast a distance sufficient to ensure that the lead weight has time to sink to the bottom and take a firm grip on the seabed, before the current washes it too far downtide. In most scenarios, a lob of 40-60 yards up tide and away from the boat at an angle of around 45 degrees will suffice.

Q: Can you tell me if it matters that the male spigot on my rod does not fully fit inside the female section?

TERRY DOWNES, OAKHAM, RUTLAND

DL says: No, in fact it shouldn't. Correctly fitting spigots, as shown, typically have a gap that, over time, will very gradually wear down, thus ensuring that allowing for some wear, the spigots do not eventually become loose.



Q: Why do anglers sometimes hang their baits from grip wires prior to casting from a boat?

MARTIN HOWMAN, BY EMAIL

DL says: The primary reason is safety. Another reason is that it greatly assists casting by improving the optimum casting angle without having the bait hanging in the water, or risking snagging other anglers' lines.



Q: Can you tell me the difference between a capstan and a winch?

CLIVE MEREDITH, SWANSEA, WALES

DL says: A capstan, shown, works in a vertical plane and is typically used to haul an anchor aboard private boats. A winch works in a horizontal plane, and is generally found on larger commercial boats and ships.

Q: How many fenders do I need to fit aboard my boat?

BRIAN MEADOWS, DISS, NORFOLK

DL says: Fenders are used to prevent damage to a boat's hull from contact with other boats and the berth.

Depending on the type of berth you have, you need to fit enough fenders to completely protect the boat.

You also have to protect against other boats coming alongside yours, when your boat is left unattended, in severe weather, and when negotiating busy locks.



SEA SCHOOL

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Q&A

KAYAK ANGLING

Q: How can I tell if it's too rough to go kayak fishing? Are there any indicators that I should be aware of?

TOM WILKINSON, HOVE, SUSSEX

MC says: If you find yourself asking if you should risk it, then my advice is you shouldn't go. While it is great to push the envelope and improve your skills and experience, it is not a good idea to do this when surrounded by fishing gear.

I would suggest that if you arrive at the beach and the sea looks like it's out of your comfort zone, you do some practice launching, landing and paddling, if safe to do so.

In advance, it is a good idea to look at forecasts in the days leading up to when you want to go. Various weather conditions will affect the sea in various ways. For example, locally, an onshore wind (easterly) makes for uncomfortable, constant chop, while a strong offshore (westerly) wind flattens the sea nicely. Strong northerlies bring large swells, whereas strong southerlies make a general mess.

Time of day and temperature can also affect things, and the direction of the tide relative to the wind will also alter the playing field.

Experience and constant monitoring is your best tool, but websites such as Magic Seaweed, that give wind, swell and tide combinations can be of great benefit once you know how they compare to the reality.

Q: Sometimes I catch loads, sometimes I catch nothing, despite using the same equipment and bait in similar conditions. How can I be more consistent?

DEREK STRATHMORE, GLASGOW

MC says: I will assume you are fishing at anchor because you mentioned bait.

Yes, it can vary day to day anyway, but something I've always been surprised at is how one rod will out-fish the other despite being identical and either side of my hip.

Likewise, three or four of us might be next to each other and one will out-fish the others. Another day that person might blank.

So, assume it's what's happening on the bottom. Ridges, rocks, gulleys, humps, holes and weed all attract, hold, repel, divert or otherwise affect the life on the bottom, whether it's food source, fish shelters or ambush spots.

My experiences of diving off the British coast have shown just how localised fish can be, surprisingly so, and how often certain fish will

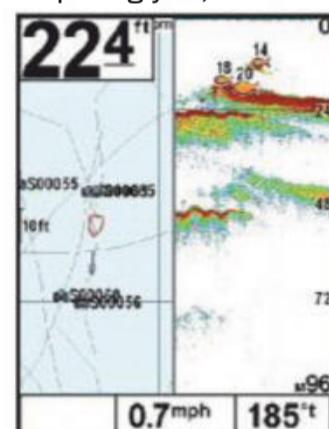
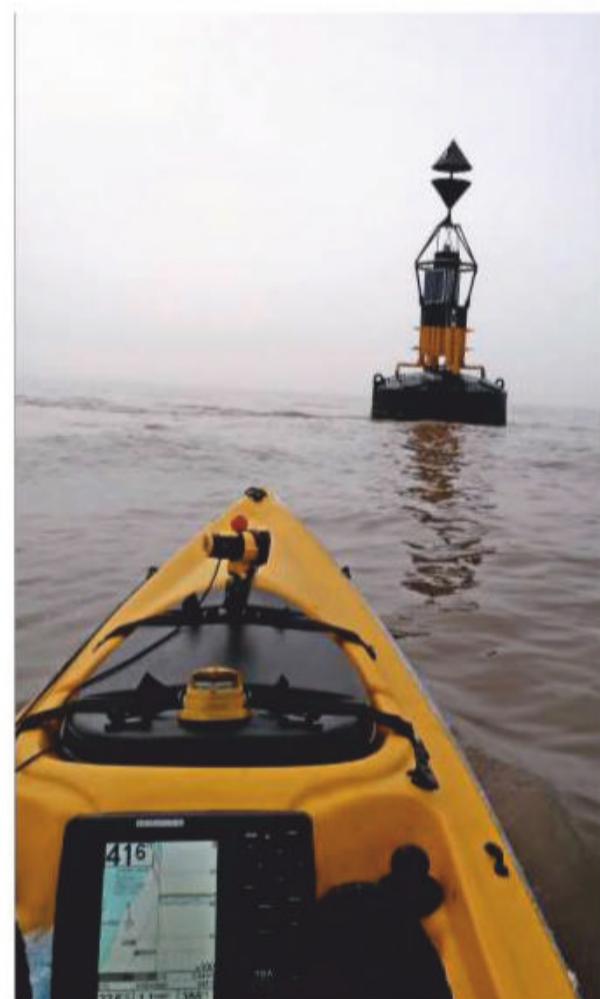
be found repeatedly in the same areas. I regularly dive a shallow-water wreck and know exactly where the large bass congregate and where the shoal of schoolies will be found, every dive. Elsewhere on the wreck, and I don't know why, I never see bass. Likewise, all the lobsters seem to be found at one end.

In open ground, very little is seen, generally, and it's definitely true that features attract and hold fish that would otherwise travel through with the tide.

A fish-finder and chartplotter combination (above and left) is the answer. Use the finder to locate features and the plotter to store them. If somewhere fishes well, then return to that position repeatedly to find that consistency within the limits of the day.

Q: Whenever I strap my kayak on my roof rack it makes a buzzing noise when the car is travelling. This really annoys me and makes me worry that the kayak is going to fly off at any moment. Surely, this isn't normal?

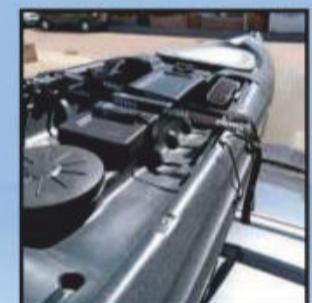
GARETH BARNWELL, WISBECH, CAMBS



MC says: It is and it isn't. I assume you are using flat webbing straps over the kayak?

It's all to do with airflow making the straps vibrate, but it's easily fixed.

Don't keep the straps flat, instead add in a twist or two and the noise will stop. It really is that simple.





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FIRST LOOK

Paul Fenech samples the latest gear to hit the tackle shops



WATERTIGHT 30L COOL BAG

RRP: £179.95

This is a high-performance cool bag with a huge 30-litre capacity that keeps out the water and retains an ice-cold temperature.

Featuring a thermal lock insulation that will keep ice packs and other items frozen for longer, it's also secured with a fantastic zip. Made from a tough Armour Tech fabric, it also boasts loads of extras, as well as being completely water and air-tight – it even comes supplied with a lubricant to ensure the zip never seizes. There is also a smaller 18L version available.

■ For more info, visit: www.redoriginal.com

TRONIXPRO SEARCH HEADLIGHT

RRP: £19.99

Compact, neat and extremely bright, this headlight operates with four AA batteries. It features a comfy headstrap, swivel light unit and powers out 400 lumens of power. Ideal for any night session.

■ For your nearest Tronixpro dealer, visit: www.tronixfishing.com



SAKUMA METAL ATTRACTOR BLADES

PRICE: £3.23

When you need to add a little extra attraction to your baited hooks, these are just the job. Best used in a running tide, they will spin and flash and are particularly deadly for flatfish.

■ For more info, visit: www.sakuma.co.uk

MARINE FISH OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

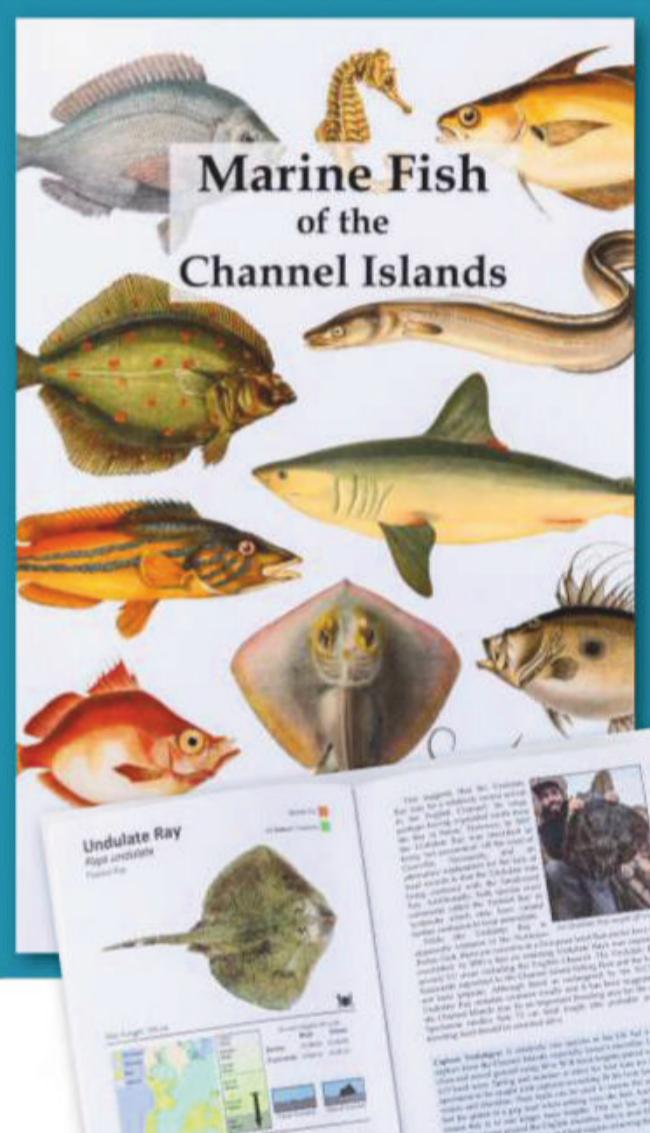
PRICE: £16.99

This superb publication highlights all the marine fish recorded from Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm, as well as other islets and reefs in the Channel Islands.

Compiled by Alex Plaster and Paul Chambers, there is a heap of information on 216 different species, together with colour illustrations, maps and photographs, as well as habitat, records, baits and advice for sea anglers, plus historical data.

It's a wonderful book written with the naturalist, angler and ichthyologist in mind.

■ Available to buy on Amazon, or for multiple copies email: alexplaster1995@gmail.com



TOP FEATURES

- IPX5 sealed body
- CNC gear technology
- HT-100 carbon fibre drag washers
- Six sealed stainless-steel ball bearings
- Full metal body
- Superline aluminium spool
- Line capacity rings

TECH SPEECH

- MODEL: Penn Spinfisher VI 7500
- BEARINGS: Six
- RATIO: 4.7:1
- CAPACITY: 590yd/0.31mm
- WEIGHT: 790g

■ For your nearest Penn stockist, tel: 01665 602771. Web: www.penn-fishing.co.uk



PENN SPINFISHER VI 7500 FIXED-SPOOL REEL RRP: £179.99

This highly-acclaimed fixed-spool just got a whole lot tougher. The Spinfisher VI features IPX5 sealing that prevents any saltwater entering the gearbox or drag system.

The HT-100 drag washers are housed in a sealed spool, while the full metal body and sideplate protect the CNC gears, especially when under a heavy load.

Other notable features include a deep aluminium spool, so you can load it with plenty of mono line (more if using braid), making it ideal for any deepwater venues. It boasts a tough cranking handle that allows you to really pile on the pressure, with an incredibly smooth and faultless operation.

Load, lock, launch!

Century's Tip Tornado Graphex Sport rod offers speed, power and lightness



CENTURY TIP TORNADO

GRAPHEX SPORT

PRICE: £595

Century's stable of Tip Tornado blanks has certainly raised a few eyebrows among shore anglers. Without question, it has attracted an army of loyal admirers and followers for many years, and now the Graphex models are reaching out even further.

My first encounter with the Graphex blanks came when I got my hands on the TT Super Match (issue 564). The lightweight outfit was an absolute joy to use, and after a few minor tweaks in my casting style I had mastered it admirably.

A few months down the line and my Facebook Messenger, together with texts from friends, had virtually gone into meltdown. "If you like the Super Match, you'll love the Sport," was the general wave of communication.

The truth was, I did indeed adore the Graphex TTSM, but I couldn't ignore the hype on social media concerning its big brother. It seemed the majority of anglers I was chatting with online were praising the Graphex TTS, especially those based in the North East. So, after a brief spell of research, I reckoned the Graphex Tip Tornado Sport was worth pursuing further.

IMPECCABLE

It will be no surprise to learn that the finished blank and build is impeccable, showing off Fuji Titanium K guides. It's a two-piece, equal section rod, measures up at 13ft 11in when assembled, and boasts a casting ratio of 4-8oz. Although it's incredibly slim, the butt diameter is slightly larger than the TTSM at 0.87in.

A padded Century rod bag is also provided, helping to prevent those annoying knocks

and scrapes during transit.

I've always preferred a multiplier reel and can't quite grasp the fixed-spool phenomenon

that's seemingly swept shore anglers off their feet, especially if it's located in the low position of a rod. I chose to use my Penn 525 Mag3 reel for my maiden encounter with the Graphex Sport.

After a few gentle lobs to get an initial feel of the blank, it was fairly easy to work out that this outfit is powerful.

Although it's not a poker, and there is flexibility in the butt section, the ➤

SeaAngler
LIVE
TEST



Performing
a powerful
pendulum cast

A longer drop suited my style of pendulum casting



Going into the initial punch stroke, I began to step on the power



As the rod locks, it rapidly flies through to launch the sinker



carbon tip is a real giveaway to its speed...it's lightning quick!

EFFORTLESS

This rod simply loves a speedy wind-up and an even harder hit. So much so, off-the-ground casting feels effortless, too. Of course, it isn't effortless, and there is an awful lot of power to get to grips with, but because it's so light, it means you can really concentrate on applying the power. I've used rods in the past that were so powerful and heavy they almost lifted me off my feet. The Tip Tornado Graphex Sport won't do that to you, but be aware of that tip section whipping through – it really is super-fast!

On the loading-up process, I preferred a longer-than-normal drop. This allowed me to really step on the power and locate the sweet spot as the blank begins to lock. Once I was in position to release the sinker, the whole rod flies through to a pacey launch stage. However, depending on your casting style, you may see it differently to me, but I reckon the same fast process of load, lock and launch will be very much similar.

Fishing-wise, this rod will certainly cover harsh territory. Rough venues that include rocks and kelp will be no problem at all, and the same applies to marks that have sticky clay seabeds. It's a perfect tool for extracting cod, rays, huss and smoothhounds, therefore bite detection will generally be in the form of hard pulls and drop-backs.

If you relish the thought of seeing a rod tip slam around from thin dabs and pin whiting at range, then this isn't for you. However, if you thrive on delivering large baits in search of bigger species, at range, the Century Tip Tornado Graphex Sport should most definitely be on your radar.

For more information, or to locate your nearest Century stockist, visit the website: www.centurysea.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

- Autoclave Technology
- Graphex (Graphene reinforced resin matrix)
- Anti-Twist Technology (AT-T)
- High-tenacity carbon tip
- Gearbox design
- Japanese shrink wrap on butt
- Japanese shrink wrap either side of join
- 3M reflective tape on tip

- MODEL: Tip Tornado Graphex Sport
- LENGTH: 13ft 11in
- SECTIONS: Two equal
- RATING: 4-8oz
- GUIDES: Fuji K Titanium
- REEL SEAT: Fuji DPS
- BUTT DIAMETER: 0.87in
- BAG: Yes

WIN!



Berkley X9 braid worth £44.99!

We've got £1,000 worth of this super new braid. A 300m spool can be yours - FREE!

LET'S face it, not a lot can compete with the incredible strength and durability that a braided mainline can offer. This super-strong weaved fibre is now used by shore and boat anglers everywhere, as well as lure anglers, yearning for improved casting accuracy and more hook-ups.

Boat anglers love the fact that braid helps them to stay in total contact with what's going on below them. Every single tap and pluck from inquisitive fish is registered immediately, helping to increase catch rates.

Even in a strong running tide, braid will simply cut through the current, preventing

your rig from being dragged perilously close to a reef or structure.

Shore anglers are also benefiting, especially with longer casting distances. The thin diameter that braid offers enables baited rigs and lures to be cast further.

Now, leading line manufacturer Berkley has revolutionised the braiding process by introducing X9. The company has taken a standard X8 weave and added an additional central PE core. This offers a reduced distortion under tension, plus a smoother and rounder profile for increased strength.

Available in 15lb (0.14mm), 20lb (0.17mm), 30lb (0.20mm) and 40lb (0.25mm) breaking strains and colours Low Viz Green, Crystal and Fluro Green.

WIN

In association with Berkley, Sea Angler is giving you the chance to win a 300m spool of X9 30lb Fluro Green braid worth £44.99. Simply fill in the coupon (right) and send it back to us, whereupon you will be entered into a draw.

It's completely free to enter, and the first 22 entries drawn will win. Sorry, no photocopies allowed, and completed entry forms must reach us by April 4, 2019. Terms & conditions apply.



FREE TO ENTER

ENTRY FORM

SEA ANGLER BERKLEY X9 BRAID COMPETITION

NAME.....

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ADDRESS.....

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Post to...
Berkley X9 Braid competition, Sea Angler magazine, H Bauer Publishing, Media House, Lynchwood, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE2 6EA.

■ H Bauer Publishing, publisher of Sea Angler, may also from time to time contact you by post, email or phone. Please tick if you do not wish to be contacted by us or carefully selected partner organisations

■ We will communicate with you from time to time with relevant promotions from H Bauer Publishing, publisher of Sea Angler. You can of course unsubscribe at any time and your details will never be passed on to other organisations.



MY LATEST BUY

Five shore anglers reveal the latest item of tackle they bought and why...

■ NAME: Ian Ashcroft
■ HOME: Union Mills, Isle of Man
■ LATEST BUY: Harrison Torrix P2
■ PRICE: £250

Ian purchased his latest rod as a blank online and had it built professionally. "Being 75 years old, I needed a rod that was slim, extremely light and had a nice user-friendly through-action. This rod really does suit my style of fishing and I'm extremely happy with its performance," he said.

HARRISON TORRIIX P2



■ NAME: Rob Tuck
■ HOME: Clacton, Essex
■ LATEST BUY: Frozen sandeels
■ PRICE: £2.50

Match angler Rob always has a selection of frozen baits when he competes on the open circuit. He relies on Breakaway Tackle, in Ipswich, to provide him with all his favourites from Devon Baits. "The quality is fantastic and it never seems to let me down. I wouldn't use anything else when I'm competing," he said.





■ NAME: Paul Stevens
■ HOME: Worthing, West Sussex
■ LATEST BUY: Berkley Trilene Fluorocarbon
■ PRICE: £12

Paul, known as 'Shakey' to his mates, uses this for most of his hook snoods on all his rigs. He prefers the 20lb breaking strain on 200-yard spools. He buys his essential items from Prime Angling. "I've used this for years and find it is very strong and knots incredibly well," he said.



■ NAME: Saul Page
■ HOME: Deal, Kent
■ LATEST BUY: Tronixpro Cool Bag
■ PRICE: £9.99

England international match angler Saul believes that keeping bait in top condition is paramount to success. He bought his Tronixpro Cool Bag from Fisherman's Corner in nearby Ramsgate. "This is ideal for storing my frozen baits such as packs of sandeels and mackerel," he said.



■ NAME: Eddie Painter
■ HOME: Bridport, Dorset
■ LATEST BUY: Anyfish Anywhere GB FS Pro
■ PRICE: £450

Fixed-spool user Eddie is a travelling matchman, and bought his latest rod from Seaton Angling Centre.

He said: "I needed a rod that was both powerful and lightweight. This is absolutely brilliant, and complements my casting style superbly."



All items are available at a wide range of tackle dealers and mail order outlets

Get this superb Daiwa spinning outfit for just £39.99!

Take advantage of this incredible Daiwa D-Wave spinning rod, reel and line and save £23!

AFTER a long winter you can almost smell spring in the air, and the first of those bass lure sessions is just around the corner.

This month's offer from the Fishing Megastore is a quality D-Wave combo package from Daiwa. The deal includes a two-piece 11ft rod. Rated at 1-3oz and built around a powerful carbon blank, it's equipped with aluminum oxide guides, stainless steel hooded reel seat, plus durable classic EVA foam hand grips.

Completing the outfit is the D-Wave saltwater 5000B spinning reel. It's packed with power and has a really dependable front drag system, plus a super-smooth ball-bearing drive and Twist Buster II line roller – the spool is even loaded with line, ready for you to head off straight to your nearest bass mark.

Normally, this package would set you back £62.99 in the shops, but it can be yours today for just £39.99 – putting a cool £23 back into your pocket.

Now that's a deal you cannot afford to miss.

Ordering couldn't be easier as we've now created three easy ways (below). Simply give the helpful staff at the Fishing Megastore a call, place your order and leave the rest to them.

**SAVE
£23!**

Please add £6.99 p&p.
UK mainland only.
Email for overseas rates



THREE EASY WAYS TO ORDER

- 1. LOG ON** to the link gac.fishing/00150SA
- 2. CALL** 0141 212 8880 and quote 00150SA
- 3. BY POST** Glasgow Angling Centre, Unit 1, 29 Saracen ST, Glasgow G22 5HT and quote 00150SA

*Please make cheques payable to 'Glasgow Angling Centre Ltd'.

FOR MORE
UNBEATABLE
DEALS LOG ON TO
www.seaangler.co.uk
TODAY!

(*£6.99 P&P)



2pc Flotation Suit

Fantastic life preservation suit with top quality integrated buoyancy in both the jacket and trousers. Features: Fully adjustable, Hood, waist, braces, hand and ankle cuffs, crotch strap. Detachable Hood, Fleece lining body/hood and pockets with Safety Whistle, Double fold over pockets, Heavy Duty Double front Zip.

This suit has so many features, too many to list!

RRP £139.99

OUR PRICE

£99.99

BEST SELLER



2pc Thermo Suit

If you are looking for a warm and waterproof suit but don't want a floatation suit then the IMAX Thermo suit is well worth considering. It follows the classic jacket and bib & brace design. The outer shell is 100% water and wind proof and the high collar and detachable hood combine to keep the worst winter weather at bay.

RRP £129.99

OUR PRICE

£89.99

One of the best value for money suites on the market today.



Ocean Thermo Jacket

- Strong and durable 100% polyester peach shell fabric with water-repellent finish

RRP £69.99

OUR PRICE

£45



Envoy 7000 FS Reel

Lightweight, powerful and reliable, the Envoy Fixed Spool from Tronixpro is the ideal partner for continental style surf rods, letting you cast to the horizon every time. Features a grippy rubberised handle, lightweight frame, infinite anti-reverse and a powerful drag that'll stop anything that swims. The high capacity spool is built to hold all line you'll need if your catch heads for the horizon.

RRP £54.99

OUR PRICE

£45

Capacity

20lb/230yd



BEST SELLER

Banshee Beachcasters

When it comes to value for money the Banshee beach caster range is one of the best out there.

RRP £139.99
OUR PRICE

CODE	LGTH	MODEL
AF5327	13ft	Multi/Fixed 4-8oz
AF5749	14ft	Multi/Fixed 2/4-4/6oz

£69.99

Aphex Continental GT

An ideal all-round beach fishing rod that is perfect for fishing on clean beaches. The spliced in solid glass tip provides excellent bite detection.

OUR PRICES
FROM ONLY

£89.99

CODE LGTH AFTM PCS

TX6221 13ft 100-200g 3
TX6222 14ft 100-200g 3
TX6223 15ft 100-200g 3

parmaris Life Jackets

- Fully adjustable harness lifejacket, with a full 150N buoyancy, designed for adults.
- Very lightweight and comfortable to wear
- Will fit over any clothing

OUR PRICES
FROM ONLY

£64.99

CODE MODEL PRICE

PA0004 Auto £64.99
PA0006 Auto Hi-Fit £69.99

stillwater Nook Folding Day Shelter

A fantastic fishing shelter that delivers superb performance and unbeatable value.

RRP £79.99
OUR PRICE

£45

Seahunter Z Surf Rods

- Highly reliable and durable high carbon blanks
- Hard chromed Aluminium Oxide guides

RRP UP TO £110

OUR PRICE

£70



CODE LGTH CASTS PCS

DW7351 14ft 4-8oz 3
DW7352 15ft 4-8oz 3

Aphex Continental TT

Designed in a continental style, three-piece configuration, this is a "cont", with added brute force!

OUR PRICES
FROM ONLY

£92.99

CODE LGTH CASTS PCS

TX6224 13ft 100-250g 3
TX6225 14ft 100-250g 3
TX6226 15ft 100-250g 3

Envoy Reels

Capacity 250mm/0.35mm

OUR PRICES
FROM ONLY

£35

CODE MODEL PRICE

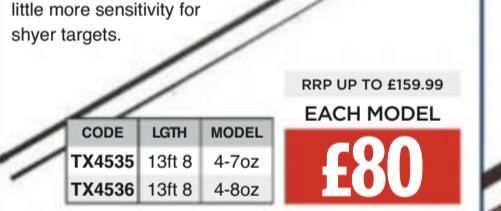
TX3132 Tournament Orbit RHW £94.99 £50.00
TX3133 Tournament Orbit LHW £94.99 £50.00
TX4549 Tournament Mono Mag RHW £106.99 £55.00
TX4550 Tournament Mono Mag LHW £106.99 £55.00
TX4551 Tournament LW RHW £104.99 £60.00
TX4552 Tournament LW LHW £104.99 £60.00
TX4553 Mono Mag RHW £69.99 £35.00
TX5805 Envoy Fifty Five 5500 LHW £64.99 £35.00
TX5806 Envoy Fifty Five 5500 LHW £64.99 £35.00
TX1634 Orbit 6500 Right £65.99 £35.00
TX1636 Level Wind 6500 Right £62.99 £35.00
TX3130 Tournament Mag RHW £99.99 £55.00
TX3131 Tournament Mag LHW £99.99 £55.00

Envoy Beachcasters

The 4-8oz model features a powerful 'Heavy' rated action, while the 4-7oz is rated 'Medium' delivering a little more sensitivity for shyer targets.

RRP UP TO £159.99
EACH MODEL

£80



SKS Black Shore Rods

Each rod is individually tailored to offer the perfect 'all round' actions, which mean they are as effective on clean ground as they are in heavy terrain.

OUR PRICES
FROM ONLY

£79.99

CODE LGTH MODEL PCS

S00244 12ft 4-6oz 2
S00245 13ft 4-6oz 2
S00245 14ft 5-7oz 2

PENN GS 525 MAG3 Series

- Latest version of the classic all round beach casting reel
- Upgraded graphite frame

RRP £179.99
OUR PRICE

£130

CAPACITY 15lb/280yd

CODE MODEL CAPACITY

PE1777 7000 330yds/15lbs
PE1778 8000 370yds/15lbs

Surfblaster II Fixed Spool Reel

Ideal for all surf-casting situations over clean and mixed rough ground.

RRP UP TO £114.99

OUR PRICE

£82



D-Wave Bass Combo

Daiwa D-Wave Combos are designed to deliver an outstanding package of hardware to get you out fishing, at an unbeatable price.

RRP £62.99

OUR PRICE

£45

Combo includes:
- D-Wave 11ft 1-3oz 2pc Rod
- D-Wave 5000B Reel with Mono

CALL TODAY
FOR YOUR
FREE
CATALOGUE

Beach Rods

Kompressor SS Beachcaster
A next generation sea, river and estuary rod designed primarily for fixed spool use.

CODE LGTH MODEL OUR PRICE

CN0078 13ft 10 4-7oz £402.50

Eliminator T900 Guide Rod

Features Century's STF (spread tow fabric) to improve AT-T anti-twist.

CODE LGTH MODEL OUR PRICE

CN0014 14ft 4 4-7oz £520.00

Visit our website to see the full range!

FREE
DELIVERY
ON ORDERS
OVER £50

Vader XS Shore Rods

Superb multi modulus carbon fibre two piece blanks with progressive casting action, with sensitive hi-vis tips for bite detection.

OUR PRICES
FROM ONLY

£54.99

CODE MODEL PRICE

SO0622 13ft 2pc 4-6oz £54.99
SO0623 14ft 2pc 4-7oz £64.99
SO0624 15ft 3pc 4-7oz £79.99

CLICK AND
COLLECT
ORDER
ONLINE

Shakespeare Firebird Boat Combos

The Firebird Sea Combo boasts all the hardware you need to get out fishing! The 2pc 7ft rod has plenty of power and comes with a range of great features. The Firebird multiplier comes pre-spooled with 20lb mono, and is a left hand wind.

RRP £59.99

FROM ONLY

£39.99

CODE CASTS PRICE
SP3822 20-30lbs £39.99
SP3823 12-20lbs £42.99

LOW COST
FINANCE
AVAILABLE

Glasgow
Angling Centre
FISHING MEGASTORE
Unit 1 The Point Retail Park,
29 Saracen Street, Glasgow, G22 5HT
GLASGOW: 0141 212 8880

Edinburgh
Angling Centre
FISHING MEGASTORE
Unit E Granton Retail Park,
West Harbour Road, Edinburgh, EH5 1PW
EDINBURGH: 0131 202 6351

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Countdown to The Big One

...see you at Farnborough!

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON TO THE biggest fishing event of 2019. More than 20,000 anglers are predicted to attend the massive tackle spectacular on Saturday and Sunday March 23 and 24, with all the biggest names in fishing signed up to reveal their new gear for the season ahead.

In addition to more stands, this year's show will see the introduction of new entertainment areas, including a Lure Live area, the John Wilson Legends Theatre – complete with its own indoor lake – and the Angling Times Social Theatre hosted by Keith Arthur, where the stars of the sport will be on hand to share their secrets.

Britain's best anglers, TV stars and fishing personalities will form an unprecedented line-up at the Big One Show at the Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre, just off the A325. (GU14 6AZ).

On the John Wilson Legends Theatre, hosted by Rob Hughes, there will be a unique indoor lake for live demonstrations from top.

This is also the place to take part in an exclusive Q&A session with River Monsters and Mighty Rivers star Jeremy Wade, and hear exclusive talks from the likes of carp legend Terry Hearn and many more, including TV anglers Ali Hamidi and Dean Macey.

Making his first appearance at a fishing show will be BBC presenter and award-winning author Will Millard – star of A Year with the Tribe – who'll give audiences an insight into his new BBC TV fishing series due to air this spring.

"There has never been a line-up of stars as big as this at The Big One," said event director Vince Davies. "The demos and talks planned for the three arenas are simply unmissable. We've got talks for all styles of angler too, so there's no way you won't learn something new for your type of fishing."

For those looking for relaxed chats, advice, and up-close Q&A with the stars, then the Angling Times social theatre – hosted by Keith Arthur – is a must-visit.

The Big One's new Lure Live Arena is sure to be a big draw and you need to head here to get the best advice on this fast-growing side of our sport. Hosted by lure expert and Angling Times columnist Dr Paul Garner, there will be a programme of demos on the big lure tank from experts, including Luc Coppens and Sea Angler LRF contributor Adam Kirby.

This year's Big One shows will also give visitors the opportunity to try their hand at something different to their normal fishing, and win some amazing tech prizes. Adavance ticket holders can enter the event at 9am on both days. Tickets on the door are sold from 9.30am. The event closes at 5pm on Saturday and 4.30pm on Sunday.

PARKING SORTED!

THE Big One Show organisers have confirmed that the parking problems of last year's Farnborough event – the first to be held in the new, purpose-built exhibition centre – have been overcome.

This year there are an additional 2,100 spaces, including room for over 1,000 vehicles on the grassed area by the entrance to the show.

Importantly, the car park used last year, which involved a 35-minute walk for some visitors, will not be used.

Instead, organisers have secured spaces at all car parks closest to the halls, the furthest just an 11-minute stroll away.

To make the trip from car to show even easier, the number of buggies and minibuses to transport visitors and their purchases has been doubled. A new 'Shop & Drop' facility inside the show will also be in operation this year, so anyone who buys bigger or heavier items of tackle will be able to leave them safely and continue their look around the show.

**PARKING AT THE
FARNBOROUGH SHOW
SAT & SUN
MARCH 23 & 24**

**ORDER YOUR
TICKETS NOW**

Check out the latest ticket offers and exclusive VIP packages available for both the Farnborough and Stoneleigh events online at www.thebigoneshow.co.uk



The Big One Farnborough Parking Spaces/Walking Times

Car Park 1

600 spaces
1-minute walk

Car Park 1 Grass

1,000 spaces
1-minute walk

Car Park 2

Spaces TBC
1-minute walk

Car Park 3

600 spaces
3-minute walk

Car Park 4

850 spaces
4-minute walk

Car Park 8

70 spaces
4-minute walk

Car Park 5 Grass

1,100 spaces
11-minute walk

Hall 5 North Car Park

50 spaces
11-minute walk

Hall 5 West Car Park

230 spaces
11-minute walk

Chalet Row A

(Saturday only)
90 spaces
11-minute walk

NEW STONELEIGH SHOW SAT & SUN APRIL 13 & 14

Taking over the two giant halls at the easily-accessed Warwickshire location, it's all systems go for The Big One Stoneleigh in April.

Sat Nav: CV8 2LG

Date: Sat & Sun April 13/14, 2019

Location: NAEC, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG. Follow signs for

National Agricultural Centre or NAC Stoneleigh Park from the A46 and pick up the yellow signs directing you to Stoneleigh Park Main Entrance on the B4113.

Opening times: Advance ticket holders can enter the event at 9am on both days. Tickets on the door are sold from 9.30am. The event closes at 5pm on Saturday, 4.30pm on the Sunday.



THE BIG ONE

FARNBOROUGH
NR LONDON

MARCH 23/24 2019

NEW SHOW!
NAEC STONELEIGH
MIDLANDS

APRIL 13/14 2019

FISHING SHOWS

TWO UNMISSABLE EVENTS... FOR ALL ANGLERS!

NEW TACKLE



HOT DEALS



**ADVANCE
TICKETS
ON SALE**
• 10% OFF
• GET EARLY ENTRY
• SAVE ££ ON
GATE PRICES

MEET THE STARS



DEMO ARENA



AMAZING SHOPPING DEALS, MUST SEE FISHING STARS!
AND NEW TO FARNBOROUGH - OUR DEMONSTRATION ARENA!

ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!

www.thebigoneshow.co.uk

ADVANCE TICKET HOLDERS CAN ENTER THE EVENT AT 9AM ON BOTH DAYS.

WALK UP TICKETS ARE SOLD ON THE DOOR FROM 9:30AM. THE EVENT CLOSES AT 5PM SATURDAY, 4:30PM SUNDAY.

SAT NAV FOR THE FARNBOROUGH SHOW IS GU14 6AZ AND FOR STONELEIGH IS CV8 2LZ



Trailer-tastic!

The Jeanneau Merry Fisher Marlin 605 is one of the best choices for anglers who like to tow their boat





CLEARLY A VESSEL THAT HAS BEEN designed with fishing in mind, the Merry Fisher Marlin 605 is from the extensive and evolving range of boats manufactured by French company Jeanneau.

I've always found the design, build and finish of these boats to be superb, which must be a reason why they hold their value. The Marlin 605 is no exception, and is certainly one of the very best trailerable fishing boats I have seen.

She features an asymmetric forward cabin that is offset to port, leaving a broad walkway along the starboard side from the cockpit through to the bow.

The cabin can be left open, enclosed by canvas or, for maximum security, fitted with patio-style glass doors. ►

Enjoying the ride
in Swansea Bay



The spacious cockpit is large enough for three anglers to fish in absolute comfort, increasing to four by utilising the full length of the boat when fishing on the drift, for example.

When the engine is trimmed down, a hinged section creates a solid transom incorporating a useful work station for bait preparation but, cleverly, this lifts up automatically when the engine is trimmed up – a nice touch.

Visibility from within the well-ventilated cabin is exceptional, thanks to an attractive wrap-around windscreens. Side windows provide necessary ventilation, while additional lighting and ventilation is achieved by the inclusion of skylights, within both the forward cabin and wheelhouse, though these are both optional extras.

Seating is provided for the helmsman and one crew. I particularly liked the innovative adjustable steering position system. It can be repositioned from its standard location at the console to the forward edge of the cockpit, allowing the helmsman to steer from there. I suspect this is a feature I will come across more often in the future.

The self-draining cockpit features an excellent amount of inboard freeboard, and an effective moulded non-slip finish. A large stowage hatch amidships within the main deck provides access to the battery and the fuel tank. Seating

is provided within each quarter, and forward of the cabin at the bow.

A transom door to starboard opens on to a swim platform, which is fitted with a boarding ladder. Gunnel rail and grab handles are fitted, along with all necessary deck hardware, including various rod holders, as standard. An aerated livebait well is also provided.

The Merry Fisher Marlin 605 has an overall length of 18ft 6in (5.64 metres), with a decent 8ft/2.45m beam. She displaces 2,205lb/1,000kg, has a standard fuel capacity of 100 litres, along with a 20-litre water capacity, and has been categorised at CE Category C for carrying a maximum of six persons.

EASY HANDLING

She proved very easy to launch and later retrieve, as well as manoeuvre within tight spots within the marina. Once we had exited the Tawe Locks and cleared the breakwater, we encountered reasonable testing sea conditions as we ran across Swansea Bay towards Mumbles Head.

The Marlin 605 fitted with the Yamaha 115hp, as tested, has a maximum speed of 31 knots, which consumes 40 litres of fuel an hour. Her ideal cruising speed is 20 knots, providing a more economical fuel burn of 19 litres per hour.

I was very impressed with the way she handled, as I have come to expect whenever I step aboard

a Jeanneau. As we sped across the bay, the waves were falling on our port bow, yet, despite this, we were able to maintain a comfortable speed somewhere approaching 20 knots.

Even when running with the wind, the sea breaking directly astern of us, she steered beautifully, showing hardly any tendency to breach or in any way veer away from the course I was steering. Her lateral stability was excellent when running with a beam sea.

A surprisingly little amount of spray was thrown on to the windscreens when we encountered more testing sea conditions in the tide race in the vicinity of Mumbles Head.

Certainly, this is a boat aboard which I would confidently venture many miles offshore in order to fish. With the Marlin 605 you have the ideal boat for both the more adventurous sea angler and the leisure boater looking to take a family out for a day's fishing or cruising. ■

NEED TO KNOW

The cost for the Jeanneau Merry Fisher 605 package, including a Yamaha 115hp, is £34,125.

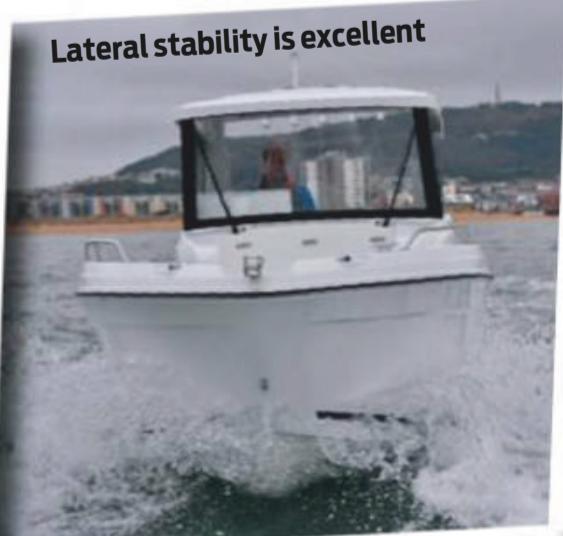
A wide selection of optional extras are on offer. Details of packages are available from Cambrian Boat Centre, tel: 01792 467263.

■ Email sales@cambrionboats.com

■ Web: www.cambrionboats.com



The Yamaha 115hp gives a maximum speed of 31 knots



Lateral stability is excellent



Offered is an innovative adjustable steering position

BOAT STORE

Items for anglers going afloat

LOWRANCE LINK-9 FIXED-MOUNT VHF RADIO

Marine electronics giant Lowrance has launched Link-9, its latest VHF radio.

Designed as a replacement for the current Link-8, the Lowrance Link-9 VHF radio features a sleek, industrial design with a large, intuitive interface, removable fist microphone, built-in AIS receiver and a front-mountable mechanical design for easy installation.

With its integrated GPS receiver, Link-9 now has four ways to ensure GPS reliability in the event of an emergency. A GPS antenna in the face of the radio is perfect for open-air installations, and the SMA connector can be coupled with a GPS-500 antenna. NMEA 0183 and NMEA 2000 connections allow the user to get GPS data from a chartplotter or from another antenna that's already in the system.

Link-9 also answers the call for increased situational awareness on the water. The built-in dual channel AIS receiver monitors the position of nearby AIS-equipped vessels to assist in collision avoidance in crowded waterways. The information is clearly viewable on the built-in screen, or can be overlaid on top of a chart or radar through a compatible multifunction display (MFD).

Share fishing trips with up to five friends using Track Buddy, which requests the location of another VHF radio using a digital selective calling (DSC) position request.

A number of other features have been added including Navigation mode, which displays speed and course, and Man Overboard (MOB) function.

Link-9 is simple to install with a low-profile front-mount design



that matches perfectly with Lowrance MFDs.

A start-up wizard, easy channel scan and a favourites' option enhance the user-friendly functionality of the large, clear white dot matrix

LCD screen. The remote mountable

fist mic can be connected to the front or rear of the radio, and an optional extension cable allows the radio and mic to be mounted separately. This offers a simple, cost-effective solution without cable clutter. The Lowrance Link-9 is priced at £469.99.

■ For more information visit: www.lowrance.com



GARMIN REACTOR 40 KICKER AUTOPILOT

Designed for use with kicker motors, this new autopilot system from Garmin offers a whole host of features. It's designed for boats with small petrol outboard motors up to 20 horsepower.

Using the autopilot helps maintain heading hold and route to keep you on course — even against wind, waves or heavy current. It's perfect for trolling lures inshore for bass.

The kit includes a convenient floating handheld remote control with a bright, sunlight-readable display.

You can easily fine-tune the autopilot throttle setting with the touch of a button to quickly drop to idle speed when netting a fish (great for single anglers).

It's easy to install and integrate with the included GHC 20 autopilot display.

Also integrates with compatible Garmin chartplotters or NMEA 2000® network-compatible GPS system. This unit costs around £2,259.

■ For more details on Garmin products, visit: www.garmin.com/marine



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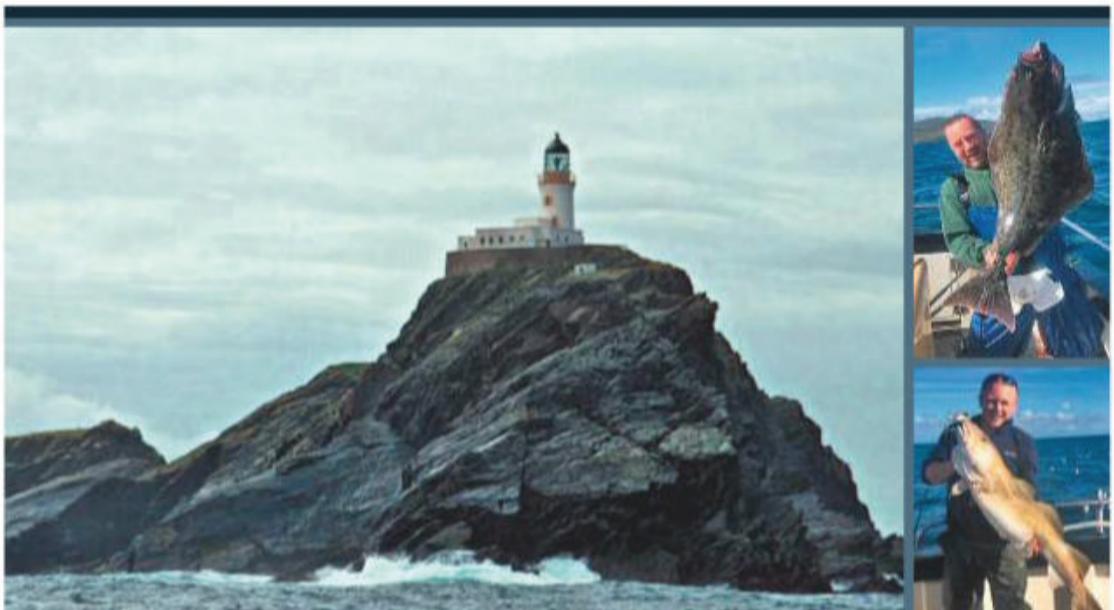
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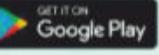


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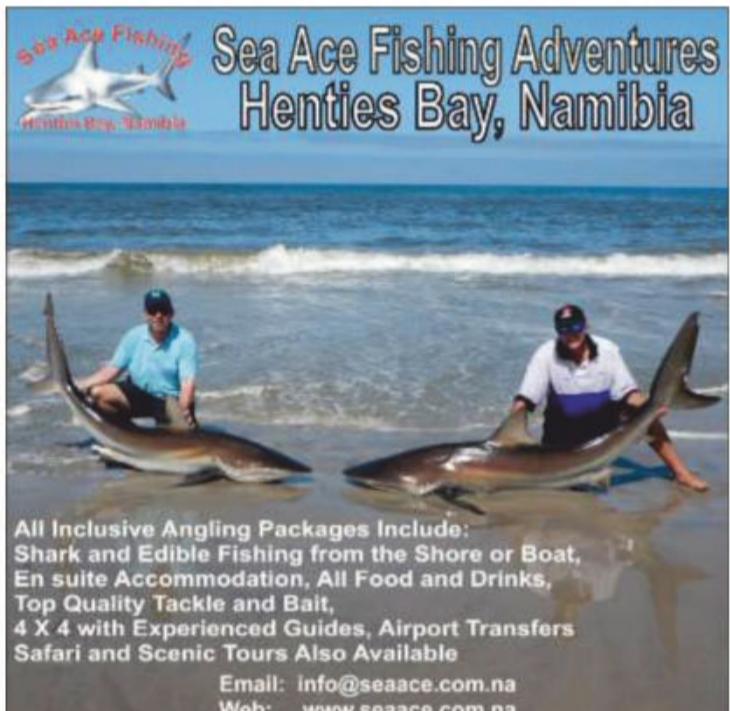
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WHAT'S ON

MARCH

8: Tony's Tackle Eastbourne Individual League rnd 1, Langney Point, 9am-2pm, £10 all-in (paid by Thursday before match), pegged, four matches, catch & release, lug, rag and fish baits only, 01323 731388.
8: PF Sea League rnd 3, Eastney, measure & release, £20 league membership, £10 match entry, (£12.50

SHARK CONTEST

Billed as the richest shark tournament in Europe, the Ballycotton Big Fish, takes place from September 12-15. The international four-day catch and release shark fishing tournament, based in County Cork, Ireland, offers €250,000 prize money, including €150,000 prize for the longest shark, and €20,000 for the longest shark each day.

Entry fee is €5,000, which includes a skipper and boat for four days, packed lunch each day, a limited supply of frozen mackerel bait, welcome dinner and closing party, and transport for each entrant to and from the accommodation to each pier each day. The rules allow for a different name (entrants must be 18 and over) for each of the days under one entry fee, working out at €1250 per person. For more details, visit www.theballycottonbigfish.com.

non-member), Lock, Stock and Tackle 02392 812 478.

● 9: Ardrossan & District SAC open, Loch Fyne, 5pm-10pm, register 3.15pm-4.15pm at Oyster Bar car park, measure and return 20cm, two hooks only, minimum size 4 hooks, £20 entry, limited pegs, book only, Stuart Ballantyne 07742 716173 or Stuart Miller 07868 732891.

● 10: North Norfolk National Sea League rnd 6 & open, Bacton, Tony 07780 793141 or thomasamt@btinternet.com.

● 10: Kent Flounder League rnd 3, Seasalter, 2.30pm-5pm, register from 10am at rail bridge CT5 4ET, measure & return, book only, Ian 07791 234318.

10: Bispham Angling Sea League rnd 4 of 12 open, Beach Road, 11am-3pm, book on from 9am at Sea Cadets, book only, £20 entry, £20 league (best seven results), Hutch 07472 249294, Tony 07702 229015 or Jordan 01253 358194.

● 10: East Anglian Teams of Five open, Weybourne, 10am-3pm, Rob 07855 848967.

● 10: Bognor Regis AAS open, Paghams beach, 9.30am-2.30pm, book in and draw from 8.30am at Paghams Yacht

Club, 1 West Front Rd, PO21 4SY, £8 entry, £4 juniors, pools, John Small 07799 762377.

10: Anglers Den open, Pevensey Bay, 10am-3pm, pegged, £20 all-in, £300 1st, optional pairs, book in from 7.30am at Ocean View Bakery, Pevensey Bay, Glyn or Kevin 01323 460441.

● 16: Southern League rnd 3 of 12 & open, Friars Cliff, 5pm-10pm, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 1oz, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2019 League entry £20, booking ends one hour before start, Darren 07919 073 232, Nick 07870 922 216, Mike 07983 579 596, Ian 07736 004 714 or Ant 07775 691 916.

● 16-17: Skua SAC two-day open, Talacre, 10.30am-2.30pm Sat, noon-4pm Sun, book on through Skua Facebook page or Alan Price 07734 430142.

● 17: Country Stores open, Loughor rover, 11am-4.30pm, Brian at Country Stores, Gowerton, 01792 875050 or 07970 404522 (evening).

● 17: Hornsea SAC Anyfish Anywhere open, 10am-4pm, tickets from Marine Hotel, Hornsea, from 11am or in advance from East Coast Tackle, Hornsea, John Aylward 07968 215565.

● 17: SA1 Fishing Club open, Swansea

PENN PLUS MATCH

MARCH 16-17: North Norfolk Air Ambulance open, 10am-3pm, £1,000 1st, daily prizes s, zoned, limited pegs, free junior entry, booking advised, Henry 07582 756900 or Adrian 07878 229678.

TIDES FOR MARCH AND APRIL

LONDON BRIDGE *

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MARCH

7	THU	02.24	6.79	14.42	6.82
8	FRI	02.56	6.89	15.12	6.87
9	SAT	03.25	6.95	15.41	6.90
10	SUN	03.55	6.95	16.11	6.84
11	MON	04.25	6.88	16.43	6.68
12	TUE	04.57	6.75	17.17	6.47
13	WED	05.34	6.61	17.56	6.26
14	THU	06.17	6.45	18.43	6.03
15	FRI	07.12	6.24	19.47	5.80
16	SAT	08.27	6.06	21.20	5.75
17	SUN	10.03	6.18	22.49	6.03
18	MON	11.22	6.55	***	***
19	TUE	00.03	6.48	12.30	6.96
20	WED	01.01	6.86	13.25	7.25
21	THU	01.50	7.13	14.13	7.41
22	FRI	02.34	7.33	14.57	7.48
23	SAT	03.15	7.47	15.39	7.45
24	SUN	03.54	7.50	16.19	7.28
25	MON	04.33	7.38	16.57	6.98
26	TUE	05.12	7.10	17.34	6.61
27	WED	05.52	6.74	18.12	6.24
28	THU	06.38	6.33	18.57	5.90
29	FRI	07.33	5.94	19.56	5.59
30	SAT	08.46	5.68	21.18	5.46
31	SUN	11.09	5.72	23.48	5.69

APRIL

1	MON	***	***	12.25	6.04
2	TUE	00.53	6.10	13.21	6.40
3	WED	01.41	6.45	14.03	6.62
4	THU	02.21	6.67	14.40	6.73
5	● FRI	02.56	6.81	15.12	6.81
6	SAT	03.27	6.93	15.42	6.89
7	SUN	03.59	7.03	16.14	6.94
8	MON	04.30	7.07	16.47	6.88
9	TUE	05.04	7.02	17.21	6.71
10	WED	05.39	6.89	17.56	6.49
11	THU	06.17	6.73	18.36	6.25
12	● FRI	07.03	6.53	19.24	6.00
13	SAT	08.00	6.29	20.30	5.77
14	SUN	09.20	6.13	22.03	5.75
15	MON	10.48	6.28	23.30	6.06
16	TUE	***	***	12.05	6.62
17	WED	00.43	6.50	13.12	6.97
18	THU	01.40	6.87	14.06	7.19
19	● FRI	02.27	7.12	14.52	7.28
20	SAT	03.10	7.30	15.34	7.31
21	SUN	03.50	7.44	16.14	7.28
22	MON	04.29	7.48	16.52	7.15
23	TUE	05.08	7.35	17.28	6.88
24	WED	05.46	7.06	18.03	6.55
25	THU	06.26	6.67	18.38	6.21
26	● FRI	07.08	6.27	19.18	5.90
27	SAT	07.58	5.890	20.10	5.61
28	SUN	09.06	5.64	21.27	5.43
29	MON	10.24	5.65	22.58	5.57
30	TUE	11.36	5.91	***	***

* TIDAL VARIATIONS FROM LONDON

Wick	-2.29	Barry	+5.08
Lossiemouth	-2.00	Swansea	+4.42
Aberdeen	-0.18	Milford Haven	+4.37
Cullen	-0.08	Fishguard	+5.44
Cromarty	+0.47	Aberystwyth	-6.11
Berwick	+0.54	Barmouth	-5.45
Blyth	+1.46	Holyhead	-3.28
North Shields	+1.47	Menai Bridge	-3.08
Hartlepool	+1.59	Colwyn Bay	-2.47
Whitby	+2.20	Southport	-2.55
Scarborough	+2.30	Blackpool	-2.50
Filey Bay	+2.45	Morecambe	-2.33
Bridlington	+2.58	Barrow (Ramsden)	-2.28
Skegness	+4.29	Whitehaven	-2.30
Hunstanton	+4.44	Kirkcudbright Bay	-2.25
Cromer	+4.56	Girvan	-1.51
Lowestoft	-4.23	Ayr	-1.44
Aldeburgh	-2.53	Lamlash	-1.45
Felixstowe pier	-2.23	Greenock	-1.19
Clacton	-2.00	Oban	+4.12
Southend-on-Sea	-1.22	Gairloch	+5.16
Herne Bay	-1.24	Ullapool	+5.36
Margate	-1.52	Belfast	-2.47
Deal	-2.38	Douglas	-2.44
Dover	-2.53		
Dungeness	-3.05	IRELAND	
Eastbourne	-2.48	Dun Laoghaire	-2.09
Newhaven	-2.47	Arklow	-4.41
Brighton	-2.51	Rossare harbour	+4.39
Worthing	-2.36	Baginbun Head	+3.53
Portsmouth	-2.29	Ballycotton	+3.45
Ryde	-2.29	Courtmacsherry	+3.32
Southampton	-2.53	Baltimore	+3.35
Poole (Entrance)	-5.09	Bantry	+3.15
Bournemouth	-5.09	Fenit pier	+3.13
Swanage	-5.19	Kilrush	+4.02
Portland	+4.57	Galway	+3.36
Torquay	+4.40	Clifden Bay	+3.41
Dartmouth	+4.25	Westport Bay	+3.57
Plymouth	+4.05	Sligo harbour	+4.25
Fowey	+3.53	Killybegs	+4.21
Falmouth	+3.30	Rathmullan	+4.43
Newquay	+3.32		
Padstow	+3.45	NORTHERN IRELAND	
Barnstaple	+4.30	B	

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Breakwater, 12.30pm-4.30pm, longest fish match, cash prizes, meet 10am at McDonald's, limited number allowed, Clive 07929 389088.

● 17: Weston Outcasts SAC cod open, Portishead to Clevedon, 1pm-5pm, sign from 11am at Moon & Sixpence, Clevedon, BS21 7QU, Morgan Wilson 07972 802434.

22-23: SAMF v Forces Challenge, Kelling, 5am-10am Friday, 9am-2pm Saturday.

● 23: Samalite Chesil League & open, Bexington, 4pm-9pm, best eight from 10 matches, £25 league membership, new members welcome, £15 match entry, book in by 3pm, Dave 07977 132951.

● 23: Asso Five Man League rnd 4 of 4 & open, Hastings & St Leonards, 11.30am-4.30pm, lugworm, fish and squid baits only, £10 individual league, all prizes for teams and individuals awarded at end of four matches, NSL team qualifier, Colin Crosby 07971 252652.

● 24: Welsh FSA East Region Shore League open, Marcross & Monknsash, 12.30pm-5.30pm, draw 10.45am Marcross car park, Steve Chadwick 07777 689289.

APRIL

5: PF Sea League rnd 4, Eastney, measure & release, £20 league membership, £10 match entry, (£12.50 non-member), Lock, Stock and Tackle 02392 812 478.

● 6: Ardrossan & District SAC open, Loch Fyne, 3.30pm-9.30pm, register 2pm-3pm at Oyster Bar car park, measure and return 20cm, two hooks only, minimum size 4 hooks, £20 entry, limited pegs, book only, Stuart Ballantyne 07742 716173 or Stuart Miller 07868 732891.

● 6: Flatfish open, Whitehaven North Pier & North Beach, 9.30am-1.30pm, flatfish only, longest flatfish 1st, longest length 2nd, next longest length 3rd, book in 8am-9am, 60 pegs, book only, Andrew 07494 922986.

● 6: Veals Summer League rnd 1 & open, Littleton, 7.30pm-11.30pm, draw 6.30pm, pegged, one rod, three hooks, no white rag or maddies, £60 league entry, best eight matches from 10, £15 entry all-in, book only to fish as opens, Steve 0117 926 0790.

SCOTLAND SEARCH

Sea angling bosses in Scotland have launched a recruiting drive, looking for fresh faces to build a strong pool for matches later this summer.

Mike Horn, president of the Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers, wants to hear from experienced anglers, and beginners who want to learn a new sport. Scotland hopes to field both men's and ladies' teams in the Home International this summer, being held in Ireland. Contact Ian Napier, of the Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers, tel: 01592 591882 or 07905 501283.



● 7: Kent Flounder League rnd 4, Allhallows, 12.30pm-5pm, register from 7am at car park ME3 9QD, measure & return, book only, Ian 07791 234318.

● 7: Newport & District SAC open (Garry Evans Seamaster), St Brides, 7.30am-11.30am, £10 entry, £5 junior and OAP, £2 optional pool, Ivor 07854 829590.

● 7: Southampton estuary charity open, Netley to Rolling Mills, 11am-5pm, sign in from 8am at Weston main car park for zone draw, £15 entry, measure & release, any species 18cm and over, maximum two rods sharing four hooks, no spinning or lures, geoffmaidment1972@gmail.com.

● 7: Weymouth Angling Centre flatfish open, Chesil Beach (Dragon's Teeth to Hive Beach), 11am-5pm, register from 9am at Abbotsbury car park, £15 adults, £5 juniors and OAPs, £5 optional pairs, £500 longest length, £250 longest fish, Andy Selby 01305 777771 or visit www.weymouthangling.com/events

12: Tony's Tackle Eastbourne Individual League rnd 2, Langney Point, 11am-4pm, £10 all-in (by Thursday before match), pegged, c&r, lug, rag and fish baits only, 01323 731388.

13: Gordon's fishing fundraiser, Motor Neurone Disease Assoc, Holyhead Breakwater, 4pm-midnight, £10 entry, £5 juniors, Gordon 07572 983389.

13-14: The South West Plaice Championships, Ferrybridge to Rame Head, 6am April 13 to 4pm April 14, tickets online or from Seaview Angling, Seaview Angling 01752 269698.

● 14: Weston-super-Mare SAA spring open, Weston town beach,

12.45pm-4.15pm, Victoria 07471 080290.

● 14: East Anglian Teams of Five open, Dunwich, 10am-3pm, Rob 07855 848967.

● 14: Tralee Bay SAC open, Cashen Estuary, 11am-3pm, check in at Cashen car park, Chris 00353 (0)85 1532770.

● 19: Seaham SAC Good Friday open, Hendon groyne to Blast Beach, noon-5pm, heaviest single fish, optional bag prizes, 0191 581 0321.

PENN PLUS MATCH

APRIL 20: Senhouse Street SAC Easter open, Perch Light to Grasslot pier (pier excluded), registration 7am-8.45am at Senhouse Street WMC, CA14 2SJ, £20 entry, £1,000 heaviest flatfish, £500, £300 and £200 top three heaviest bags, Mark 0775 637801 or Mike 075489 49140.

● 20: Samalite Chesil League & open, Abbotsbury, 5pm-10pm, best eight from 10 matches, £25 league, £15 match, book in by 3pm, Dave 07977 132951.

● 20: Lincs open, Cleethorpes prom, 5.15pm-9.15pm, book in from 3.30pm at RNLI, catch and release, £15 entry, booking advisable, Garry 07889 271115 or George 07857 550125.

● 21: Bispham Angling Sea League rnd 5 open, Priory Point, 10.30am-1.30pm, book on from 9am at Kingfisher, £20 entry, £20 league, book only, Hutch 07472 249294, Tony 07702 229015 or Jordan 01253 358194.

● 21: North West ASAC PMs open, Hall Rd, Crosby, 10am-2.30pm, book on from 8.45am in pay & display car park (£3.80 charge) by Coastguard, L23 8SY, two hooks, measure to weight conversion, £10 all-in, Richard 07763 529509.

Fixtures must be sent in by match organisers only and must include full details and a contact telephone number. Emails received will be acknowledged. Send events at least eight weeks in advance of the fixture to cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk

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SEA LEAGUE



The latest results from Britain's biggest event for shore match anglers

THE 31ST IRISH WINTER SHORE ANGLING FESTIVAL

East Wexford beaches, Ireland, 360 anglers

Against a host of top anglers from the UK and Ireland, it was Irish international Paul Whelan (above) who won the three days.

Having finished second in this event in 2018 and winning in 2017, the angler from Ballybrack, Dublin, fished superbly to score three zone wins, each worth 30 points, to finish with the perfect total of 90 points. Runner-up Ben Arnold, of Worthing, improved on his third-placed finish in 2018, gaining two seconds and a first to earn 88 points, while Ged Stevens, of Barrow, had a first, second and third for 87.

Day 1 winner was Shay O'Neill, of Dublin, with 736pts, with Paul Whelan second on 642 and Daniel Crump, of Barry, in third with 614. Day 2 winner was Ronan Doherty, of Dublin, with 1336, followed by Ben Arnold on 1250 and Lar Mooney, Dublin, on 1238. Day 3 winner was Ben Arnold with 1132, followed by Paul Whelan on 961 and Karl Fogarty, of Dublin, with 756.

The Cumbrian duo of Ged Stevens and Matt White won the pairs. Ben Arnold had more success by winning the teams of four with Tony Royal, Gary Hazelgrove and Roy Arnold, and finishing second in the pairs with Roy.

Result (rule 2, 20pts max, rule 17, down to 5th): 1 Paul Whelan, Dublin, 90, 2389 (20pts); 2 Ben Arnold, Worthing, 88, 2788 (19); 3 Ged Stevens, Barrow, 87, 1752 (18); 4 Gary Hazelgrove, Brighton, 81, 1971 (17); 5 Karl Fogarty, Dublin, 81, 1919 (16).

Longest fish – Jimmy Doyle, Wexford, 48cm bass (10).

Zones (rule 2, daily entry of 120 anglers), Day 1 – Shay O'Neill, Dublin; Daniel Crump, Barry & Marcus Blaz, Monaghan (all 4). Day 2 – Ronan Doherty, Dublin; Lar Mooney, Dublin & Simon Dawber, Wigan (all 4). Day 3 – Alan Mulcahy, Waterford (4).

Teams of four – Tony Royal, Gary Hazelgrove, Roy Arnold & Ben Arnold, 279pts; 2 Wayne Phillips, Joe Arch, Daniel Crump & Alan Price, 274; 3 Mike Hughes, Tomos Hughes, Bill Lindfield & Gordon Thornes, 272.

Pairs – Ged Stevens & Matt White, 151; 2 Ben Arnold & Roy Arnold, 149 (3997); 3 Joe Arch & Daniel Crump, 149 (3422).

TONY'S TACKLE EXCALIBUR CHARTERS BIG ONE OPEN

Eastbourne and Pevensey beaches, East Sussex, 111 anglers

The £1,000 top prize in this catch and release event, which featured mainly



flounders, whiting, plaice, dabs, eels and rockling, went to Darren Bond, of Lancing, with 14 fish for 214 points from peg 14 in zone D at Langney Point.

Close behind with 198 points was Mark Pinder, of Ipswich, who was in zone B at the flats, Pevensey Bay. In third was Martin Sherwin, who was also in zone D, with the most fish, 16, for 194 points.

Craig Buy, of Colchester, won zone A at Billy's Tower with 165 points, and Lionel Watson, of Sheppey, topped zone C at White Horses with 156 points.

Longest fish was a 56cm dogfish from zone B for Tim Lane, of Eastbourne.

Result: 1 Darren Bond, Lancing, 214pts (11pts); 2 Mark Pinder, Ipswich, 198 (10); 3 Martin Sherwin, Eastbourne, 194 (9). Zones – Craig Buy, Colchester, 165 & Lionel Watson, Sheppey, 156 (both 3). Longest fish – Tim Lane, Eastbourne, 56cm dogfish (3).

FORDS SPORTS & SOCIAL SAC 44TH OPEN BEACH FISHING FESTIVAL

Netley, Southampton, 80 anglers

Only three fish were caught as the fishing proved tough for the 80 entrants, with a single fish for each of the leading anglers. Winner Dave Lane, of Weymouth, caught a 1lb 9oz flounder to win the £400 top prize, with Paul Barley, of Portsmouth, and Chi Chung, of Andover, finishing second and third with 1lb 1oz 8dr and 6oz 8dr, respectively.

Result: 1 Dave Lane, Weymouth, 1-9-0 (8pts); 2 Paul Barley, Portsmouth, 1-1-8 (7); 3 Chi Chung, Andover, 0-6-8 (6).

SOUTHERN LEAGUE RND 1 & OPEN

Eastney, Hants, 78 anglers

Fishing was tougher than usual, but winner Joe Wales managed 3-11-0 on peg 60 in zone C, his heaviest fish being a 1lb 13oz dogfish, which matched a similar fish caught by Paul Carter to share the heaviest fish prize.

Zone D winner Mike Taylor on peg 70 was second with 2-9-0, and Nick Hayter on peg 77 was third with 2-5-0. Other zone winners were Ben Arnold with 0-11-0 at peg 26, and Paul Carter on peg 3 with 2-3-0.

Result: 1 Joe Wales, Shoreham, 3-11-0 (7pts); 2 Mike Taylor, Southampton, 2-9-0 (6); 3 Nick Hayter, Southampton, 1-5-0 (5). Heaviest fish – Paul Carter, Gillingham, 1-13-0 dogfish (2).



THE 12TH RNLI ANNUAL OPEN

Amroth, Pembs, 69 anglers

Hadyn Cole, of Lamphey, topped this match with five flounders for a heaviest bag of 1.940kg, with runner-up spot going to the heaviest fish, caught by Gwyn Davies, of Pembroke Dock, a 0.835kg dogfish.

In third was Jeff Stephens, of Bridgend, with three flounders for 0.960kg. The event raised £687 for the local lifeboats.

Result: 1 Haydn Cole, Lamphey, five flounders, 1.940kg (6pts); 2 Gwyn Davies, Pembroke Dock, 0.835kg dogfish (5); 3 Jeff Stephens, Pembroke Dock, three flounders, 0.960kg

WELSH FSA EAST REGION SHORE LEAGUE OPEN

Aberthaw & Boerton, Vale of Glamorgan, 61 anglers

Dogfish, conger eels, a codling and a blonde ray for 7.86kg secured top spot for Rory Jenkins, of Tonyrefail, who fished at Boerton.

Second was Andrew Withy, of Bridgend, who also fished at Boerton and caught dogfish, congers and poor cod for 7.82kg. Phil George, of Cardiff, had dogfish, pouting and congers for 5.12kg.

This year's league features 11 teams of five in the six-match event.

Result: 1 Rory Jenkins, Tonyrefail, 7.860kg; 2 Andrew Withy, Bridgend, 7.82kg; 3 Phil George, Cardiff, 5.12kg.

PENN 2018

David 'Dai' Davies, of Neath, was listed twice under different towns and his points total would be 12. Similarly, Paull Curtice, of Shepton Mallet, was also listed twice and his points total would be 11. As a result, both are promoted to the Premier Division.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MEMORIAL WIN

■ Mick Wright, of Hornsea, won the Mark Loudon Memorial Open on the East Yorkshire coast with a 2.45kg cod caught at Aldbrough. Second was Steve Barron with a 2.25kg cod from Hilston. The event raised £900 for TCU Sheffield.

HEAVIEST COD

■ Ian Crombie's 7lb 3oz cod was the biggest after the five rounds of Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League. Runner-up was Colin Holmes with a 6lb 15oz fish. Winner of round 5 was Stuart Cresswell with a bag weight of 31-9-0.

MATCH SWITCH

■ The opening round of the Samalite Chesil League was switched from Portland to Preston. Winner was Mike Groves, with five fish for 177cm in zone A, with Dan Bristow taking six fish for 164cm. His catch included a 54cm conger eel.

PENN SHORTS

■ Aberdeen Thistle SAC open, Stonehaven to Aberdeen, 27 anglers: 1 Tony Watters, Aberdeen, 2 codling, 1.40kg (2pts); 2 G Connolly, 2, 1.34kg (1); 3 D Tate, 1, 1.24kg.

■ Asso Five Man League rnd 1 of 4 & open, Hastings & St Leonards beaches, East Sussex, 38 anglers: 1 Neville Breeding, Haywards Heath, 4 fish, 2-12-8, including heaviest fish, 1-4-0 dogfish (3pts); 2 Sam Sampson, Brighton 5, 2-6-2 (2); 3 Graham King, Kent, 3, 1-10-5 (1).

Asso Five Man League rnd 2 & open, Hastings & St Leonards beaches, Feb 9, cancelled due to bad weather.

■ Bispham Angling Sea League rnd 2 open, Five Bar Gate, Cleveleys, Lancs, 33 anglers: 1 George Smith, Grimsby, 205cm (3pts); 2 Paul Witkowski, Fleetwood, 192cm (2); 3 Dave Hutchinson, Blackpool, 137cm (1). Longest fish – Stuart Dewhurst (right), Preston, 42cm whiting.



■ Blackdown SAC open, Blue Anchor to Minehead, Somerset, 52 anglers: 1 Rob Marshall, Taunton, 106pts (5pts); 2 Terry Jones, 71 (4); 3 John Johnson, 67 (3).

■ Hornsea SAC Mark Loudon memorial open, East Yorks, 80 anglers: 1 Mick Wright, Hornsea. 2.45kg cod (8pts); 2 Steve Barron, Burton Pidsea, 2.25kg (7); 3 Callum Whitley, Hull, 2.00kg (6).

■ Kent Flounder League rnd 1 & open, Greenhithe, Kent, 39 anglers: 1 Alan Fuller, Whitstable, 148cm (3pts); 2 Peter Taylor, Maidstone, 85cm (2); 3 Rick Reader, Gillingham 80cm (1).

■ Kent Flounder League rnd 2 & open, All Hallows, Kent, 37 anglers: 1 Alan

Underdown, Herne Bay, 70cm (3pts); 2 Ian Reynolds, South Benfleet, 51cm (2); 3 Dave Byatt, Gillingham, 45cm (1).

■ Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League rnd 4 & open, Carnoustie to Ferryden Lighthouse, Angus, 27 anglers: 1 Kevin Lewis, Dundee, 39-7-0, including heaviest cod, 9-4-8 (2pts); 2 Alan Combe, Kirkcaldy, 31-3-0 (1). 3 Karl McNicoll, 19-14-0.

■ Mike and Chris's Winter Heaviest Cod League rnd 5 & open, Carnoustie to Ferryden Lighthouse, Angus, 30 anglers: 1 Stuart Cresswell, 31-9-0 (3pts); 2 Daniel Campbell, Arbroath, 19-7-0 (2); 3 Alan Combe, 17-3-0 (1). Heaviest cod – Ian Crombie, 6-15-8. Heaviest cod of league – 1 Ian Crombie, 7-3-0; 2 Colin Holmes., 6-15-0.

■ North Norfolk National Sea League rnd 5 & open, Kelling, Norfolk, 36 anglers: 1 Garry Hutson, Cleethorpes, 41 fish, 7-3-5 (3pts); 2 Luke Childerhouse, Clenchwarton, 28, 5-12-5 (2); 3 Alan Doy, Wrentham, 28, 5-2-10 (1).

■ PAKA open, Swansea Breakwater, 63 anglers: 1 Franco Attanasio, Rhoose, 93cm conger (6pts); 2 John Hearn, Swansea, 82cm conger (5); 3 Jamie Harris, Swansea, 56cm dogfish (4).

■ Samalite Chesil League & open, Preston, Dorset, 24 anglers: 1 Mike Groves, Havant, 5 fish, 177cm (2pts); 2 Dan Bristow, Dorcheser, 6, 164cm (1); 3 Dave Chidzoy, 6, 151cm.

■ Scottish FSA North East Region winter open sweepstake, Carnoustie to Maw Skelly, Angus, 21 anglers: 1 Ian Hardie, Forfar, 2.730kg (2pts); 2 Alan Combe, Kirkcaldy, 2.430kg (1); 3 Jon McAlister, Dundee, 1.770kg.

■ The 26th Paul Roggeman European Open Beach Championship, Bridlington North Beach to Spurn Point pilot jetty, East Yorks, 1200 anglers: 1 Marty Booth, Hartlepool, 5.905kg (30pts); 2 Chris Fisher, Aldbrough, 4.585kg (29); 3 Richard Southgate, Bridlington, 4.285kg (28); 4 Steve Cooper, Bridlington, 4.200kg (27); 5 Aaran Stead, Sunderland, 4.055kg (26); 6 Glen Wilson, Hull, 3.855kg (25); 7 Ian Reynolds, Long

HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes spread over the two divisions, points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three, section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match.

Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler

scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue.

If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the editor. An angler can win only one reel during the year.

To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email.

Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to: cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk



MONTHLY WINNER

■ 568: Marty Booth, Hartlepool, 30pts

REMINDER

Penn Sea League entries will only be accepted from the match organiser or officials of the club concerned. If results are not returned to Sea Angler within a month of the event, the event will be declared void for Penn points.

Riston, 3.365kg (24); 8 Andrew Stronach, Rillington, 3.569kg (23); 9 George Smith, Grimsby, 3.305kg (22); 10 Paul Cox, Kingston Seymour, 3.015kg (21).

■ Tesco Gowerton Flounder Festival, Loughor river, Swansea, 32 anglers: 1 Dai Williams, Swansea, 0.656kg flounder (3pts); 2 David Machon, Maesteg, 0.628kg flounder (2); 3 Ken Midwinter, Swansea, 0.610kg (1).

* Leaderboards include all matches up to February 22

LEADERBOARDS*

PREMIER DIVISION

Rob Allison	Loftus	37
Stephen Common	North Shields	30
George Smith	Grimsby	29
Andy Crowe	Scarborough	26
Darren Bond	Lancing	22
Gary Pye	Peterlee	22
Nathan Elliott	Dover	20
Paul Whelan	Dublin	20
Ben Arnold	Worthing	19
Dave Lane	Weymouth	19
Louie Smith	Deal	18
Ged Stevens	Barrow	18
Mark Rogers	Maidstone	17
Saul Page	Deal	16
Steve Adams	Shotley	15
Ben Bradstock	Honiton	15
Colin Crosby	Hastings	12
Simon Hogan	Maryport	10
Mark Pinder	Ipswich	10
Chris Stephens	Bridgend	7
Mike Coates	Hull	6
Rory Jenkins	Tonyrefail	6
Wayne Perrett	Southampton	6
Rob Marshall	Taunton	5
Mark Sharman	Pakefield	5
Daniel Crump	Barry	4
Ronan Doherty	Dublin	4
Phil George	Cardiff	4
Alan Mulcahy	Waterford	4
Martyn Reid	Folkestone	4
Nigel Scott	Deal	4
Craig Buy	Colchester	3
Alan Combe	Kirkcaldy	3
Alan Fuller	Whitstable	3
Gareth Gardiner	Sunderland	3
Garry Hutson	Cleethorpes	4
Kevin Lewis	Dundee	3
Daniel Campbell	Arbroath	2
Ian Reynolds	South Benfleet	2
Rob Tuck	Holland on Sea	2
Neil Cutler	Gateshead	1

Only those with points are listed.

DIVISION ONE

Martin Booth	Hartlepool	30
Chris Fisher	Aldbrough	29
Matthew Garbutt	Whitby	29
David Cooper	Edinburgh	28
Richard Southgate	Bridlington	28
Steve Cooper	Bridlington	27
Keith Smith	Blyth	27
Aaran Stead	Sunderland	26
Steve Ingleston	Whitby	25
Glen Wilson	Hull	25
Charlie Crowe	Scarborough	24
Ian Reynolds	Long Riston	24
Andrew Stronach	Rillington	23
John Appleby	Scarborough	21
Paul Cox	Kingston Seymour	21

Craig Bradshaw	Ipswich	19
Gary Hazelgrove	Brighton	17
Karl Fogarty	Dublin	16
Haydn Cole	Lamphey	14
Joe Croxon	Dover	14
Steve Fedrick	Castaways	14
Lee Adams	Shotley	13
Tony Havill	Torbay	13
Steve Norris	Yorkshire	13
George Davies	Hartlepool	12
Steve l'Anson	Scarborough	12
Tony Lewthwaite	Maryport	12
John Raines	Beach Boys	12
Curtis Robinson	Murton	11
Mark Scott	Workington	11
Damian Townsend	-	11
Danny Binnie	Filey	10
Andrew Davies	Hartlepool	10
Jimmy Doyle	Wexford	10
Wayne Brash	Workington	9
Ben Shepherd	Maryport	9
Martin Sherwin	Eastbourne	9
Andrew Foster	Easington	8
Andrew Pickering	Whitehaven	8
Mick Wright	Hornsea	8
Dave Aldous	Ipswich	7
Steve Barron	Burton Pidsea	7
Paul Bartley	Portsmouth	7
Matt Rigg	Hull	7
Joe Wales	Shoreham	7
Franco Attanasio	Rhoose	6
Steve Chadwick	Cardiff	6
Chi Chung	Andover	6
Doug Thorpe	Ipswich	6
Callum Whiteley	Hull	6
Gwyn Davies	Swansea	5
Nick Hayter	Southampton	5
John Hearn	Swansea	5
Steve Lemm	Bridlington	5
Andrew Withey	Bridgend	5
Marcus Blaz	Monaghan	4
Simon Dawber	Wigan	4
Lee Gray	Northumberland	4
Jamie Harris	Swansea	4
Terry Jones	Bridgwater	4
Lar Mooney	Dublin	4
Shay O'Neil	Dublin	4
Jeff Stephens	Swansea	4
Danny Swann	-	4
Paul Witkowski	Fleetwood	4
Ian Childerhouse	Terrington	3
Stewart Cresswell	Ayr	3
Liam Gunn	Aberdeen	3
Ian Hardie	Forfar	3
John Johnson	Bristol	3
Tim Lane	Eastbourne	3
D Tyler	Northumberland	3
Alan Underdown	Herne Bay	3
Lionel Watson	Sheppey	3
Dai Williams	Swansea	3

Only those with 3 points or more are listed in Div 1.

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Sonik VADERXS 14ft Shore Rod 4-7oz
RRP £64.99

Sonik VADERXS 15ft Shore Rod 4-7oz
RRP £79.99



All Zziplex rods now come with Fuji Alconite guides, shrink tube, coasters + rod bag. All professionally finished in house in Zziplex colours Red, White & Blue, but any custom build can be accommodated just call for advice! Note: We can now offer Fuji Titanium Torzite K Guides for the customer that wants the best!

UK'S LEADING STOCKIST OF ZZIPLEx RODS!

Zziplex M4 GT. 13ft 4", 4-8oz A Fast action rod fitted with a glass tip to aid bite registration. One of the best all round fishing rods available. 25mm butt, Equal section

Blank £429.99 | Built £509.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £549.99

Zziplex M4 Hi-flex M A clean ground distance fishing rod. If you after getting over that sandbank at range and still want good bite registration, this is the rod for you. Popular with match fishermen. 24mm, equal section

Blank £419.99 | Built £509.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £539.99

Zziplex Profile GT. 13ft 3", 4-6oz A wonderfully nice clean ground fishing rod fitted with a glass tip which is ideal when looking for smaller bites. 22mm butt, Equal section

Blank £369.99 | Built £449.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £489.99

Zziplex Profile Evo. 13ft 8", 4-7oz This is a very slim fast action rod ideal for distance fishing over clean ground. It's fitted with a stiff tip which makes it better for dealing with larger species. 22mm Butt

Blank £349.99 | Built £429.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £489.99

Zziplex TF 50/50. 13ft 4", 4-7oz This is our best selling Zziplex. t's any easy to use clean to mixed ground rod which will deal with most fish that swim around our coast. 23mm butt, equal section

Blank £339.99 | Built £419.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £479.99

Zziplex Evolution GT. 13ft 4", 4-6oz New for 2016. This rod is just beautiful. It is an ideal summer rod suitable a host of situations over clean and mixed ground. Fitted with a glass tip for better bite registration. 24mm butt, equal section

Blank £389.99 | Built £469.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £519.99

Zziplex Evolution CT. 13ft 4", 4-6oz New for 2016. This rod is the same as the Evolution GT but fitted with a carbon tip which is stiffer making it ideal for specimen fish, Rays, Cod, Hounds etc....

Blank £389.99 | Built £469.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £529.99

Zziplex TBR 14ft 6", 4-8oz A new style of rod designed for heavy ground fishing with Braid. It's a powerful blank fitted with a slightly softer tip with benefits the braid. Suitable for both Multi and Fixed spool. 26mm, Long tip ...

Blank £519.99 | Built £599.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £649.99

Zziplex TRC. 14ft 6", 5-8oz Made of out new materials and resins which have produced an incredibly quick and responsive rod which has been achieving some incredible distances of 316 yards. It is also suitable for mixed to rough ground. 25mm butt, longer tip.....

Blank £499.99 | Built £579.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £639.99

Zziplex HSM 13ft 6", 3-7oz HSM stands for 'High Speed Match' and as the name suggests it has a quick recovery but no overly stiff and fitted with a softer tip for great bite registration. 25mm butt, Longer tip

Blank £429.99 | Built £519.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £549.99

Zziplex M427 A great mixed to rough ground rod ideal is ideal for winter Cod fishing and Specimen hunting off the rocks throughout the year. Quick recovery. 25mm butt, slightly longer tip.

Zziplex M427 Hi-Flex. Designed for the same job as the standard M427 but with a slower recovery. Zziplex M427 SU. Designed with a much stiffer butt section for field work

Blank £419.99 | Built £499.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £559.99

Zziplex Powertex Bass 12ft 8", 3-5oz Without a doubt the best bass rod on the market. It's ideal for fishing light beach fishing from low or high water. Fitted with a long 8ft 6" tip which makes it feel amazing in the cast. 20mm butt

Blank £269.99 | Built £349.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £389.99

Zziplex Sea Raider III GT. 10ft, 4-8oz Brand new for 2016. The ultimate uptider? We think so. It's made out of brand new materials and resins to make it more responsive. It also features a glass tip to offer unrivalled bite registration.

Blank £199.99 | Built £279.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £319.99

Zziplex Equal Section Bass Rod GT (Glass Tip) 11ft 8". 2-4oz The soft tip gives beautiful bite registration and allows soft bait to be thrown a little harder without coming off. This will become one of the most sold rods of all time we are sure

Blank £269.99 | Built £349.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £389.99

Zziplex Equal Section Bass Rod CT (Carbon Tip) 11ft 8". 2-5oz Slightly stiffer tip than the GT version, still with great bite registration, better for stonger tides. This will become one of the most sold rods of all time we are sure

Blank £259.99 | Built £339.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £379.99

Zziplex Trinity CT 14ft 4" 4-6oz Probably the best all round 3 piece rod we have seen. Ideal for clean to mixed ground when distance is key with a simple overhead cast. Slim, responsive and sits well in the tide

Blank £439.99 | Built £519.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £559.99

Zziplex Trinity GT 14ft 4" 3-5oz Designed as a true continental for casting softer baits extreme distance with an over head thump. The glass tip provides some of the best bite indication you can get in a beach rod

Blank £439.99 | Built £519.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £559.99

**NOW AVAILABLE
A CHRIS DANCE BUILD!**

**FREE
POST!**

**Sidewinder™
SANDEELS**

The Sidewinder sand eels are the deadliest jelly Lure on the Market. They produce a realistic action of a wounded fish. The soft latex tail flutters like no other and is the first choice artificial of the majority of the UK's top anglers. An absolute must. All colours stocked 4 Inch (4 per pkt) 6 Inch (3 per pkt) 8 Inch (2 per pkt)

SPECIAL OFFER PRICE £6.49



**FREE
POST!**

okuma ALC MAG

The Okuma ALC Mag is a heavy duty beach and shore casting multiplier with magnetic drag control. It offers exceptional value with unrivalled performance.

- Mechanical Stabilising System (MSS)
- XL Gearing
- Self lubricating gear system
- Cap - 335m / 0.30mm. Ratio - 6.2:1.

WAS £169.99

SPECIAL OFFER NOW ONLY £85



**FREE
POST!**

**SPIDERWIRE
DURA BRAID 300M**

This is a classic 4 carrier braid and is unmatched in value. It's super smooth finish make long and effortless casts possible. As with all Spider wire Braids Dura-4 is super strong and super sensitive without being super expensive.

0.12mm 23lb,
0.17mm 33lb,
0.25mm 53lb,
0.30mm 64lb,
0.35mm 77lb,
0.40mm 99lb



RRP £24.99

GP £14.99

**NEW
IN!**

18 SALTIST REELS

Brand new upgraded version of the very popular Black/Gold saltist reels featuring stronger drags and faster retrieves (6.4:1). If you are after a work horse reel from either the shore or boat, look no further.



20H 6.4:1, Cap 210yx20lb mono RRP £275 **GP £239.99**
30H 6.4:1, Cap 270yx20lb mono RRP £275 **GP £239.99**
35H 6.4:1, Cap 275yx20lb mono RRP £285 **GP £249.99**
40H 6.4:1, Cap 440yx25lb mono RRP £295 **GP £249.99**

**BEST
SELLER!**

**PENN SPINFISHER SSVI
LONGCAST REELS**

Great line lay? Check. Fully waterproof? Check, Huge 20lb plus drag? Check. Quality CNC gearing? Check. These, in our eyes are the best fixed spool shore reels available.



5500LC 4.3:1, Cap 250ydsx12lb mono RRP £189.99 **GP £149.99**
6500LC 4.8:1, Cap 350ydsx15lb mono RRP £199.99 **GP £159.99**
7500LC 4.3:1, Cap 440ydsx15lb mono RRP £209.99 **GP £164.99**

**HOT
PRODUCT!**

**SAKURA SALT
SNIPER LURE RODS**

Delivering a range of salt water specific lure rods offering a little bit more back bone through a 24Ton carbon blank and fitted with Fuji K guides and sturdy reel seats. The salt sniper is a no brainer choice for your next lure rod.

7ft 3" 3-15g	RRP £84.99	GP £79.99
7ft 10-35g	RRP £84.99	GP £79.99
8ft 14-42g	RRP £89.99	GP £84.99
8ft 20-85g	RRP £89.99	GP £79.99
9ft 14-42g	RRP £89.99	GP £79.99
10ft 15-75g	RRP £99.99	GP £89.99



UK'S LARGEST SELECTION OF NORWAY FISHING TACKLE

This is just a small sample - WE STOCK MUCH MORE and we have experts that have been to Norway to give you the best advice - just call!



PENN RAMPAGE 2

4 Piece Travel Rods Built using a special mix of 24-ton carbon, these 4-piece, lightweight, slim diameter blanks feature a modern fast taper action with supple tip. Supplied in carry tube.



SHIMANO EXAGE

**TRAVEL
BOAT
RODS**

Superb, 1000s sold, ideal for travel or just leaving on the boat or in the car. In tube 60cm (24") braid friendly SIC guide. 20-30lb 6ft 6". 4 piece with tube 30-50lb 6ft 6". 4 piece with tube



**TOURNAMENT
4PC BOAT RODS**

The New 4pc Travel rods from Daiwa are set to be a big hit in the travel market high quality throughout the whole construction from the new unique carbon technology HVF (High Volume Fibre) making them lighter weighing only 320g but with the X45 technology and the v-joint to keep the blank nice and stiff. They are two models in the four piece range the lighter 15-25lb great for most aspects of fishing. Then there is the 25-40lb version for when you need that bit more grunt.

7ft 6" 15-25lb
7ft 6" 25-40lb

**NEW
LOW
PRICE**
12/20lb 7ft 8"
20/30lb 7ft 6"
30/50lb 7ft 4"
RRP £84.99
GP £62.99



**SQUALL STAR
DRAG'S**

Carbon Drag Washers, Bronze main gears, 4.9:1 Ratio + much more.

15 LEVEL WIND

Cap 320yds/15lb mono RRP £114.99 **NOW £84.99**

20 LEVEL WIND Cap 415yds/17lb mono RRP £119.99 **NOW £89.99**

20 LEVEL WIND LEFT HAND 415yds/17lb mono RRP £119.99 **NOW £89.99**

30 LEVEL WIND 455yds/25lb mono RRP £129.99 **NOW £94.99**

30 LEVEL WIND LEFT HAND 455yds/25lb mono RRP £129.99 **NOW £94.99**



**SEIGLER
FISHING REELS
SMALL GAME
LD NARROW**

Fast 6-1 ration, cap: 280yds-50lb braid (0.30mm), weighs 10.95gms. Perfect small braid reel.

LEFT/RIGHT HAND NORM £399.99 **GP £339.99**

SMALL GAME LD

Fast 6-1 ration, cap: 330yds-50lb braid (0.30mm), weighs 10.95gms perfect smallish braid reel

LEFT/RIGHT HAND NORM £399.99 **GP £339.99**

LARGE GAME LD

Fast 6-1 ration, cap: 500yds-30lb mono or 600yds x 60lb braid (0.30mm), weighs 20.2gms,

all round size, wrecking-sharking etc,

big fish mono or braid reel.

LEFT/RIGHT HAND NORM £439.99 **GP £389.99**



LARGE GAME LD

Fast 6-1 ration, cap: 500yds-30lb mono or 600yds x 60lb braid (0.30mm), weighs 20.2gms,

all round size, wrecking-sharking etc,

big fish mono or braid reel.

LEFT/RIGHT HAND NORM £439.99 **GP £389.99**

**SAVAGE GEAR CUTBAIT
HERRING KITS**

Complete with 2 paddle tail body and one curl tail body. Colours: Red Fish, Puffin, Coalfish, Tequila Sunrise, Real Herring.

270g 20cm - **£16.99**
460g 25cm - **£19.99**

**SAVAGE GEAR 4D
HERRING BIG SHAD**

25cm, 300g, 32cm, 560g RRP £19.99 **GP £22.99**

**KINETIC
MILJOPIRKEN**

Non lead, wriggles and flutters. Col: Blue/White, Silver, Fluo Parrot, Red/Black.

400g £5.99 600g £6.49

WESTIN CRAZY DAISY

Supplied with 1 paddle tail and 1 flutter tail plus 1 main hook and 1 assist treble.

Cols: Lively Gadus, Robo Cod, Blue Pearl, Rainbow, Glow

Gadus, Mack. 300g 23cm RRP £17.99 **GP £16.99**

400G 27cm RRP £19.99 **GP £18.99**

CJT SMART JIGS

200G £3.99

250G £4.99

300G £5.99

Cols: Gold/Mack or Blue/Silver



**BEHR BANANEN
LUMI PILKEN**

A deadly lure specifically designed to tease more bites from big cod.

350g £5.99

400g £6.49

500g £6.99

**BEHR BANANEN
LUMI PILKEN WITH
OCTOPUS**

Effective fluttering pirk complete with a octopus side Assist. 300g £5.99 400g £6.99

**BEHR BANANEN
PILKEN WITH GUMMI
MAKK**

Effective fluttering pirk complete with a gummi lure assist lure on the side.

Cols: Chrome, Lumi, Lumi Red head 300g £5.99

400g £6.49

500g £7.99